Destination The Shoals
April 17-19

AHA Newsletter

Tuscumbia

The AHA's 2008 annual meeting will be held in The Shoals.
Registration and lodging information is located on page 17 and 18.

The Shoals Community

By Milly Wright

Four towns form the community known as "The Shoals:" Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia. Tuscumbia, Sheffield, and Muscle Shoals are on the south side of the Tennessee River in Colbert County, and Florence is on the north side in Lauderdale County.

Tuscumbia was settled around 1817 when Michael Dickson came from Tennessee to live near the big spring. A few dwellings, a mill and a store were soon built. The town grew rapidly due to the fact that Jackson's Military Road was routed through it, and that it had easy access to the river by means of a creek that flowed from the powerful spring.

In March of 1820 Gen. John Coffee published a "Plan of a Town at the Coldwater Spring" with a central business and residential district surrounded by a wide commons area. The town was incorporated in December of that year as Ococoposo, or Cold Water. In 1821 the name was changed to Big Spring, and in 1822 it became Tuscumbia, in honor of a Chickasaw chief.

Peter Wier, in an 1823 letter, stated, "We have five dry goods stores and some grocery merchants, mechanics of almost every description, and will in all probability have a printing press shortly. . . . People are flocking in and settling fast." A row of log cabins on the hill above the big spring was used as a hotel, though more substantial facilities were soon built, including the famous Challen House, built in 1824, where Gen. Andrew Jackson is said to have "danced with the belles of the town." Many comfortable and attractive homes, such as Ivy Green and Locust Hill, were built alongside the wide streets.

Michael Dickson traveled to the source of Spring Creek in 1817 and established a settlement that eventually became Tuscumbia. A Works Projects Administration project is responsible for a stone archway bridge and pavilion at the park. The manmade waterfall (pictured above) is a favorite feature of Big Spring (Spring Park) in Tuscumbia.

Some of the oldest commercial buildings in Alabama are located in Tuscumbia. The Keaghy building (right, center structure) dates from the 1830s. This structure (currently he Morgan House, 107 E. Fifth Street) now has a stucco exterior that covers the red brick walls which were laid in Flemish bond pattern for stength and beauty.

Photo Courtesy of Tuscumbia Railway Museum

*The **William Winston Home** (located on the Deshler High School campus) was built about 1830. This is the largest surviving antbellum structure in Tuscumbia.*

The spiral staircase located in the William Winston Home is unique and one of many outstanding features of the dwelling.

The Forks of Cypress

James Jackson (photo below) was one of the founders of Florence and built the Forks of Cypress between 1816 and 1820. Jackson is also known for importing and breeding horses. The Forks of Cypress burned in 1966. A replica of the Forks of Cypress (bottom photo) was built by Amsouth Bank (now Regions Bank) in downtown Florence.

Photos Courtesy of Collier Archives

A few miles away, at the foot of the great shoals in the Tennessee River, at least five towns were formed after the 1818 government land sales: Florence, South Florence (South Port), Bainbridge, Marion, and York Bluff. It seemed to be a natural place for commerce and trade as boats could not cross the shoals during times of low water, and cotton and other merchandise would likely be stored in warehouses alongside the river.

General Jackson bought a section of land between the river and present Tuscumbia in 1818 with the intention of establishing a plantation and helping to set up the town of York Bluff. He wrote to his friend General Coffee in 1817 that he felt sure that the place would become "one of the largest towns in the western country–here will capital concentrate itself–and it will become the Nashville of the Tennessee." York Bluff was laid out by General Coffee in 1820 and several people purchased lots, but the town was never developed.

Though York Bluff, Bainbridge, Marion, and eventually, South Florence, fell by the wayside, Florence and Tuscumbia became thriving towns. Lots were sold in July of 1818 in the new town of Florence, on the north side of the river. A group of men whose families were originally from Virginia and Ireland had formed the Cypress Land Company in Huntsville for the purpose of establishing the town. Laid out among a forest of great white oaks by General Coffee with the help of Ferdinand Sannoner, a circular road enclosed orderly streets and squares that were reserved for a college, a female seminary, a "public walk or pleasure ground," a market, a courthouse, a jail and a burial ground. The town was incorporated in 1826. Sannoner was allowed to name the town "Florence," as it reminded him of the beautiful town of Florence in his native Italy.

A highly diverse group of people came to visit or to live in Florence–travelers from Europe, lawyers, doctors, teachers, merchants, hoteliers, builders, manufacturers, laborers and planters–as well as gamblers, prostitutes, entertainers and fortune hunters. Men recklessly discharging firearms while riding galloping horses shared the muddy streets with hordes of people traveling from Nashville to points south. Well-dressed ladies, strolling sheep, leaping goats, howling dogs and wandering cows added to the downtown melange.

Travelers made their way down the steep hill south of the town, wound around the old Indian mound, passed the "doggeries" and houses of ill repute, navigated through the crowds of people described as "white, black, red and

A large Indian mound was constructed near the Tennessee River between 100 B.C. and A.D. 400. This mound is 43 feet in height and is the highest domiciliary mound in the Tennessee Valley. The City of Florence maintains this historic site and a museum located on the grounds (1028 South Court Street). The museum contains numerous artifacts and displays that illustrate the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian Native American ages.

yellow, big and little" who were gathered around the "groceries" near the river, and took the horse-powered ferry over to South Florence and continued their journey.

In 1830 a group of enterprising Tuscumbia citizens formed the Tuscumbia Railway Company. When completed, by 1834, it was said to have been "the best equipped and best managed railroad in the world." Operating as the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railway, it transported cotton around the dangerous shoals in the river and took much of the business from the river boats.

Social groups in both Florence and Tuscumbia were formed according to family ties, church worship, education, and occupation. Though many people lived in log cabins, fine homes were built by those who were successful in their professions, many of them reflecting the architectural styles prevalent in the places where they had formerly lived. Anne Royall described the Florence household of lawyer John McKinley, in July of 1821, as containing "more taste and splendor, by one half, than I ever saw in my whole life." The lovely home built by lawyer George Coalter, which is now called Mapleton, stood as a twin sentinel with the McKinley home on the cliff overlooking the river.

Daughters of wealthy planters and professionals were instructed at Locust Dell Academy from 1834 until 1843 by Nicholas Hentz and his wife, author Caroline Lee Hentz. The Florence Synodical Female College became active in the 1850s, as did Wesleyan University, which was chartered in 1855 after a portion of the faculty of LaGrange College moved to Florence.

LaGrange College, situated on LaGrange Mountain in Franklin (present Colbert) County, was Alabama's first institution of higher knowledge, having been chartered in 1830, predating the University of Alabama. A Female Academy, as well as a Male Academy, had been set up in Tuscumbia by 1825.

Even though there was competition between the towns of Florence and Tuscumbia from the beginning, those who had the resources to do so kept in touch with relatives and friends who lived on the opposite side of the river, forming a loosely-joined early Shoals community. Those who worked on small family farms and had neither money nor time for travel were unlikely to cross over the river, even after a bridge was built, in 1840.

*Built in 1888, the **Tuscumbia Depot** is located on the site of the first railroad west of the Alleghenies. The railway line that connected Tuscumbia and Decatur was used to transport items around the Shoals.*

Photo Courtesy of Collier Archives

Established by the Methodist Church, ***LaGrange College*** *(top left photo) was Alabama's first chartered school (1830) and is the forerunner of the University of North Alabama. In the 1850s, the school moved from to Florence and became Florence Wesleyan University. The* ***LaGrange College site*** *is open to the public and a large marker (top right photo) has been erected at the park site. One of the original buildings at Wesleyan University is* ***Wesleyan Hall*** *(bottom photo). Built in 1855, this building is still used by the University of North Alabama.*

Sheffield was considered by some to be "the best point in the U.S. for the manufacture of iron and steel." The new town was named Sheffield after its industrial counterpart, Sheffield, England.

Photo Courtesy of Tuscumbia Railway Museum

The "dread and stern realities" of the Civil War came as a shock to citizens in both counties, many of whom had strongly opposed secession. By 1861 Tuscumbians had formed a flourishing and culturally interesting community that included enterprising businessmen from the northeast and abroad, as well as professionals from the older southern states. Those who prided themselves upon their kind and "courtly" manners were particularly affronted and outraged by brutal soldiers and renegades who invaded their town, stole their food, and destroyed their property.

Florence was occupied many times over by both armies, and was also besieged by roaming bands of vandals. Cotton and woolen mills and other enterprises were destroyed. The bridge connecting the two sides of the river was burned in1862 by Confederate Col. Ben Hardin Helm and was not rebuilt until 1870. After the Civil War, when there were no slaves to do menial work, mechanization was quickly adopted. Industrialization took place on the north side of the river in East Florence. "Florence Light Running Wagons" that became famous all over the world were among the many products that were produced in factories along the river, beginning in the 1880s.

In 1885 land that had been part of the early town of York Bluff was incorporated into the new town of Sheffield. Engineers and mechanics from the northeast were brought in to set up power plants and mills in a place considered by some to be "the best point in the U.S. for the manufacture of iron and steel." The new town was named Sheffield after its industrial counterpart, Sheffield, England. "Well-educated, financially-secure" people came to manage the new industries and to provide jobs for local people.

An experiment in new town building, Sheffield was organized in Atlanta by Walter and Eugene Gordon, at the instigation of Capt. Alfred H. Moses of Montgomery. In 1889 some of the streets were laid out forty-five degrees askew from those of adjoining Tuscumbia, supposedly in order to give a sense of a separate community.

Beginning in 1904, streetcars, powered by electric current from the Sheffield Company's steam-powered generators, traveled between Florence, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield. Sunday afternoon excursions became popular, and the towns became easily accessible to one another for the first time. Some people actually lived in one town and worked in another.

The fashionable new Victorian-style houses built by industrialists and entrepreneurs who came into the area during the "boom" years bore as little resemblance to the early log houses, "Williamsburg" cottages, and Federal-style homes as their inhabitants did to the people who had settled in the area nearly a hundred years earlier. Mill workers formed their own communities and entertained themselves and their neighbors with their music, dancing, and story telling.

Originally built in the 1840s, the Florence Bridge was damaged by storms several times and had to be repaired. Then it was burned during the Civil War.

The railroad bridge with Wilson Dam in the background.

By World War I, trolleys were used in the Shoals area. This was a particularly popular form of travel in the Shoals area on the weekends.

Photos Courtesy of Collier Archives and Tuscumbia Railway Museum

W. M. Cromwell's Livery Feed and Stable, c. 1880.

While the iron and steel industry developed in Sheffield, agriculture was important to Tuscumbia. Cotton gins thrived in Tuscumbia.

Muscle Shoals was incorporated in 1923. This scene of citizens posed at the new post office was taken in the 1920s.

Teacher, writer, and philanthropist, ***Maud McKnight Lindsay*** *(photo to the left) was born in Tuscumbia and was the founder of the first free kindergarten in Alabama. Challenging the defined roles of class, Maud started a free kindergarten in 1898. She also published numerous books and became internationally known for her work. "One of the truly progressive women of the southland" and a representative of "Alabama's true wealth and greatness" was the way Helen Keller described Maud.*

Maud Lindsay Kindergarten Class

Photos Courtesy of Collier Archives and Tuscumbia Railway Museum

In 1918 President Woodrow Wilson authorized a dam to be built at the Muscle Shoals. In 1921 Henry Ford offered to buy the partially-completed dam, along with two nitrate plants, steam plants, and other facilities that had been built on the south side of the river. His plan was to create a manufacturing town that would stretch along the river from the Muscle Shoals 75 miles eastward. A great deal of publicity was given to the project.

Though Congress declined to sell the property to a private citizen, people all over the country had become familiar with the name Muscle Shoals. Local historian Jesse C. Bradford says that investors, foreseeing future growth, laid out a town called Muscle Shoals Township in 1923. It was bounded by the river on the north, and Sheffield and Tuscumbia on the west.

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Photos Courtesy of Collier Archives

The U.S. Post Office in Florence was built in 1912 and 1913. In recent years, the United States Post Office and Court House in Florence was named the Justice John McKinley Federal Building. McKinley was a founder of Florence and was the first justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from Alabama. He served on the Supreme Court from 1837 to 1852.

Presidential Visits to the Shoals

Presidents from William McKinley to Jimmy Carter have visited the Shoals. President McKinley came to Tuscumbia in 1901. The Palace Drug Store (visible in the 1901 photo below right) is now a landmark in Tuscumbia; originally a railroad hotel built in the 1830s, it became a pharmacy in the early 1900s. The soda fountain is still in use.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visits to the Shoals are among the most famous. In January 1933, Roosevelt and Sen. George W. Norris (right) visited Wilson Dam. It was in Sheffield (bottom left photo) that Roosevelt announced the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Near the site where Roosevelt announced the creation of TVA, Sheffield is erecting a marker (bottom right photo) to commemorate the event. The marker is nearing completion.

Photos Courtesy of Collier Archives and Tuscumbia Railway Museum

From a WWI Newsstand to Books•A•Million

Photo Courtesy of Collier Archives

*The **Anderson newsstand** (bottom left of photo, to the left of Yellow Cab sign) is visible in this 1920s photo (enlarged in the insert) of Tennessee Street in Florence. The major entities of the Anderson companies are represented below. BAM! and TNT are the two most widely recognized.*

Today, Books-A-Million is the third-largest book retailer in the United States. Its origins can be traced back to an enterprising teenager in Florence, Alabama.

Clyde W. Anderson began a street-corner newsstand in 1917 in Florence. He and his family were facing difficult times, but the resourceful young man found a way to capitalize on the changes occurring in the Shoals because of the building of Wilson Dam. The influx of construction workers presented opportunities to provide individuals with publications not readily available in the Shoals. Within a few years, Clyde transformed his spartan newsstand into a thriving business because of his initiative and creativity.

In the 1950s Charles C. Anderson (Clyde's son) joined the family business and launched a chain of stores called Bookland. As the company expanded into the superstore business, Books-A-Million, Inc. emerged. ■

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In 1925, the year that Wilson Dam was completed, developers A. L. Howell and C. T. Graves purchased a part of the Muscle Shoals Township and constructed streets and sidewalks and a city hall that contained a post office. In 1927 they built a fine brick school and a modern service station. The main street, Wilson Dam Highway, was lighted, and water mains, a sanitary sewage system, and sanitary drinking fountains were installed. Several nice homes were built in the vicinity of the school.

By 1933, when new plans for the area were being discussed, the town had barely grown. An article in a New York Better Business Bureau publication at that time warned investors about buying lots in Muscle Shoals. Pictures of weedy streets and undeveloped lots were shown.

In January of 1933 President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the Muscle Shoals area, and in April of that year sent a message to Congress saying that, "It is clear that the Muscle Shoals development is but a small part of the potential public usefulness of the entire Tennessee River. Such use, if envisioned in its entirety, transcends mere power development; it enters the wide fields of flood control, soil erosion, afforestation, elimination from agricultural use of marginal lands, and distribution and diversification of industry. . . . I, therefore, suggest to the Congress legislation to create a Tennessee Valley Authority."

Eventually, after the establishment of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which had a great impact on the development of the entire area, and especially after Woodward Avenue became an extension of Highway 43, the town of Muscle Shoals began to grow. It has become a major shopping center for the area, as well as the place where industry has been concentrated for many years. It was never planned, as Tuscumbia, Florence and Sheffield were, with a central area for governmental and business facilities. Today a new city hall, a new library, a fire station, banks and schools are located along Avalon Avenue, which leads to the regional airport. Once again it is a magnet for investors, with fashionable homes and highly-rated schools.

"The Shoals" has become a complex and energetic mix of four distinctive towns inhabited by people who have come here from around the world during the past two hundred years. ■

Milly Wright is chair of the Local Arrangments Committee for the 2008 Shoals annual meeting. Consultants for this article: Tuscumbia, Ninon Holder Parker; Florence, Dr. Kenneth R. Johnson; Sheffield, Richard C. Sheridan; Muscle Shoals, Jesse C. Bradford.

Shoals Recording Studios

The Muscle Shoals Sound Studio (3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield) and Fame Recording Studios (603 E. Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals) are locations for many famous recordings. Established in 1959, Fame was the first successful studio in Alabama and helped earn the Shoals the title of "Hit Recording Capital of the World.

Bob Seger, Cher, the Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Linda Ronstadt, Cher, and Bob Dylan are just a few of the artists who have recorded hits at one of these two recording studios. ■

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
2008 SHOALS MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION (APRIL 17-19)

❖Please note that the Saturday breakfast ticket is not included in the basic registration fee.

Full registration (# persons) _____ @ $70 per person = _____
(*includes Thursday evening reception, Friday lunch, Friday banquet,
Saturday luncheon, historical tours, and Friday and Saturday sessions)

Print names below for name tags:

_____ _____

_____ _____

Saturday only registration (# persons) _____ @ $25 per person = _____
(*includes Saturday sessions and luncheon)

Print names below for name tags:

_____ _____

❖Saturday breakfast tickets (# persons) _____ @ $10 per person = _____
(PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registering for the breakfast is
strongly encouraged. Ensure your place by pre-registering!)

❖Contribution to Student Scholarship Fund (See page 56 for details) _____

Total enclosed : $ _____

Your name_____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____Day-time telephone (_____)_____

Pre-registrations will be accepted until April 11. Registrations received after that date will be charged $80 for full registration and $35 for Saturday only registration. For questions concerning registration, contact Burt Rieff (256-740-0278 or brieff@aol.com).

Make checks payable to the Alabama Historical Association and mail with this form to:

Alabama Historical Association
PO Box 640
Florence, AL 35631-0640

Bill my: ❒Visa ❒MC Account number:_____ Expiration Date:_____

Name as it appears on card (please print):_____

Signature:_____ Phone #: ()_____

William Underwood Eiland will be the banquet speaker for the 2008 annual meeting. A native of Sprott, Alabama, Dr. Eiland is director of the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Georgia. His presentation is entitled "Not All The Lamps Are Out: The Southern Scene and Alabama." The address covers the visual arts in Alabama from roughly 1920 to 1950. He will present works from an extensive slide list in order to talk about the artists and artistic movments in Alabama during the *entre-deux* years.

Cassandra King, author of numerous novels including *The Sunday Wife, Queen of Broken Hearts,* and *The Same Sweet Girls*, will be the breakfast speaker on Saturday morning at the 2008 annual meeting. Born and reared in Pinckard, Alabama (a small town outside of Dothan), Cassandra grew up on a peanut farm which is still in the King family. Her novels have won numerous book awards and earned high praise from reviewers. Cassandra presently lives in the Low Country of South Carolina with her husband, novelist Pat Conroy.

Accomodation Information

The Holiday Inn in Sheffield
is the headquarters hotel
for the 2008 annual meeting.

Holiday Inn
4900 Hatch Blvd
Sheffield, AL 35660
For reservations, call (256)381-4710
and ask for the AHA group rate.

Alternate accomodations in the Shoals:

Hampton Inn and Suites (downtown)
505 South Court Street
Florence, AL 35630
(256)767-8282

Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa
800 Cox Creek Parkway S
Florence, AL 35630
(256)246-3630

Best Western Fairwinds Inn
2807 Woodward Ave
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
(256)381-0236

Coldwater Inn
712 Highway 72 W
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
(256)383-6844

Map courtesy of Barbara Broach, City of Florence

Directions to The Richards Center from the Holiday Inn

From the Holiday Inn, turn left onto AL-157 (Hatch Blvd). Travel north a short distance and then take Highway 43/72 to Florence. This road crosses O'Neal Bridge. As you ascend the incline into Florence, continue straight but move to the left lane. At Dr. Hicks Boulevard (City Lodge will be on your immediate left), turn left. Travel a short distance, and then turn left onto Riverview Drive (watch for the AHA signs). Travel .2 miles, and The Richards Center (541 Riverview Dr.) will be on your left.

Directions to Coby Hall from the Holiday Inn

From the Holiday Inn and turn left onto AL-157 (Hatch Blvd). Travel north a short distance and then take Highway 43/72 to Florence. This road crosses O'Neal Bridge. As you ascend the incline into Florence, continue straight. You will travel between the Lauderdale County Court House (on your left) and the Suntrust building (on your right). You will now be on Court Street. Continue to the end of this street (Rogers Hall will be in front of you). At the end of Court Street, Coby Hall (459 N. Court St.) will be on your left. Parking is available on all sides of Coby Hall.

Map Key

1. Holiday Inn (Sheffield)
2. The Richards Center
3. Coby Hall

Directions to the Holiday Inn in Sheffield.

Travel north on I-65. At Cullman, take the AL-157 exit (Exit 310) toward Cullman/Moulton. Turn left onto AL-157 and follow AL-157 through Moulton to the Shoals. Just outside the Shoals, you will approach JCT 43/72. At JCT 43/72, AL-157 turns north (turn right at this junction–a Hardee's store will be on your immediate right). AL-157, US-43, and US-72 become the same road at this point, and the road also becomes Woodward Avenue. Travel straight north on AL-157 for 3.6 miles. The Holiday Inn will be on your left.

2008 Alabama Historical Association Meeting
The Shoals, Alabama

Thursday Evening, April 17, 2008

5:30 P.M. Walking Tour (departs from Coby Hall) of historic region in Florence; Billy Warren to conduct tour.

6:00-8:00 P.M. Reception and Registration, Coby Hall

Friday, April 18, 2008

8:30 A.M. Registration, The Richards Center

9:30 A.M. General Session, The Richards Center

10:45 A.M. Concurrent Sessions, The Richards Center

Session A

"Helen Keller and Washington National Cathedral as 'America's Westminster Abbey,'" David R. Bains, Samford University

"The Effects of the Civil War on Upper-Class Women in Lauderdale County, Alabama," April D. Folden, Tennessee Valley Historical Society

"Alabamians in German Stalags in World War II," Donald E. Wilson, Samford University

Session B

"Iconographic Resources at the Eufaula Athenaeum," Stephen Rowe, Eufaula Athenaeum

"Choctaw/Chickasaw Delegation Debates of 1811," Treva Dean, University of Alabama

"Responding to Terrorism: A.B. Moore's Alabama Volunteer Corps, 1859-61," Alan J. Pitts, Indian Springs

Session C

"Alabama's Adopted Confederate: The Propaganda Mission of Henry Hotze," Lonnie Burnett, University of Mobile

"Music of the Mines," Karen Utz, Curator, Sloss Furnaces

"Henry Ford is Coming to Town: His Quest to Lease Wilson Dam, 1921-1924," Clint Cvacho, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Noon Box Lunch, The Richards Center

1:30 P.M. Afternoon Tours (Tuscumbia); maps will be available at annual meeting.

7:00 P.M. Annual Dinner, Holiday Inn, Sheffield
"Not All the Lamps Are Out: The Southern Scene and Alabama," William Eiland, Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, Georgia

Saturday, April 19, 2008

7:30 A.M. Dutch-Treat Breakfast, Holiday Inn, Sheffield
"You Can't Make this Stuff Up," Cassandra King, Fripp Island, South Carolina.

9:00 A.M. Registration, The Richards Center

9:45 A.M. General Session, The Richards Center

10:30 A.M. Concurrent Sessions, The Richards Center

Session A

"Emory O. Jackson, the Voice of Black Birmingham," Mary Stanton, New York City

"Gathering the Alabama Saints to Zion," Mary Ella Engel, Western Carolina University

"The Reconstruction Ku Klux Klan, A Social Profile," Michael Fitzgerald and Adam Lozeau, St. Olaf College

Session B

"Bear Creek, Nickajack, and Alabama's Northern Boundaries," David Robb, Huntsville Museum of Art

"Divided Loyalties: Politics, Regionalism, and the Creation of Houston County," Scotty E. Kirkland, University of South Alabama

"The Stones Talk: Returning from the Trail of Tears," George Makowski and Zach Stanfield, University of North Alabama

Session C

"The Life and Times of Captain Arthur Henley Keller," Richard C. Sheridan, Sheffield City Historian

"Press Coverage and Civil Rights: the Albany Movement and the Birmingham Demonstrations Considered," Zac Peterson, University of Alabama Birmingham

"Background to Birmingham: Southern Appalachian Gold Mining and Iron Making as a Precursor to Industrial Alabama," G. Richard Wright, Waleska, Georgia and Kenneth H. Wheeler, Reinhardt College

12:00 P.M. Annual Luncheon Session, Holiday Inn, Sheffield
Presidential Address. "Cat Fights and Coffins: Stories of Alabama Courthouses," Anne Herbert Feathers

Workshops on Teaching, Grants, and Family Photographs

In an effort to increase its service to the historical community, the Alabama Historical Association is sponsoring workshops prior to the 2008 annual meeting. These workshops will be held at the Richards Center (Florence City Board of Education, 541 Riverview Drive, Florence), 3:30-5:30 P.M., Thursday, April 17, 2008. Reservations are required, and space is limited. There is no cost for the workshops, but individuals should preregister. Provided below is general information about the workshops.

Teachers' Workshop–Alabama: The History, Geography, Economics, and Civics of an American State. Authors Leah Rawls Atkins and Hardy Jackson will offer this workshop to teachers who use the Atkins/Jackson textbook on Alabama history.

Grants for Cultural Outreach Programs–The Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Randy Shoults of the Alabama State Council (ASCA) on the Arts and Susan Perry of the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) will discuss grants their organizations make to local cultural organizations. Discover what they fund, how much they offer, how to apply, and the mysteries of the ASCA and AHF funding. Open to all, but specifically targeted at representatives of organizations that promote arts and humanities in their locality.

Your Old Photos–Make Them Meaningful. A Family Photograph Workshop. David and Frances Robb will cover the basics of dating, identifying, organizing, caring for, and interpreting family photographs for attendees who find their own pictures overflowing shoe boxes, dressers, and file boxes. Topics include dating by technologies and formats; dating by content; and managing, preserving, and interpreting family photos. There will be a question and answer period, and the Robbs encourage participants to bring their most interesting or puzzling photos. ■

2008 Workshop Registration (April 17)

Please note that there is no workshop fee, but that reservations are required to ensure a place at the sessions. Complete this form and return to the address below.

Your name:_____

Organization/Institution (if applicable):_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip Code:_____ Day-time Telephone:(___)_____

Session you plan to attend (please check only one):

____ Teachers' Workshop

____ Grants for Cultural Outreach Programs

____ Your Old Photos

Return your registration form to:

Alabama Historical Association
PO Box 640
Florence, AL 35631-0640.

Breakfast Meeting for Officers of Local Historical Societies

Officers of local historical societies are invited to attend a complimentary breakfast meeting on Friday, April 18 at the Holiday Inn in Sheffield with special guest Bob Beatty of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The breakfast buffet will be open at 7:30 A.M., and the program will begin at 8:00 A.M.

Beatty, director of programs for AASLH, will discuss the "Changing Landscape of Public History." "History organizations and the communities they serve are undergoing accelerating change," according to Beatty, "due, in part, to demographic and societal trends, the digital revolution, volatile local and national economies, and changing perceptions of the American past." Beatty will give an update on some of the latest developments in public history and the work of AASLH, as well as some strategies and suggestions for local society officers to implement in their respective communities.

The breakfast is free but limited to fifty attendees. The event is co-sponsored by the Alabama Historical Association and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University.

Please call the Draughon Center at (334)844-4948 or email mwilson@auburn.edu by Monday, April 14 to reserve your place. ■

Officers should make reservations for this complimentary breakfast by contacting Mark Wilson at Auburn University.

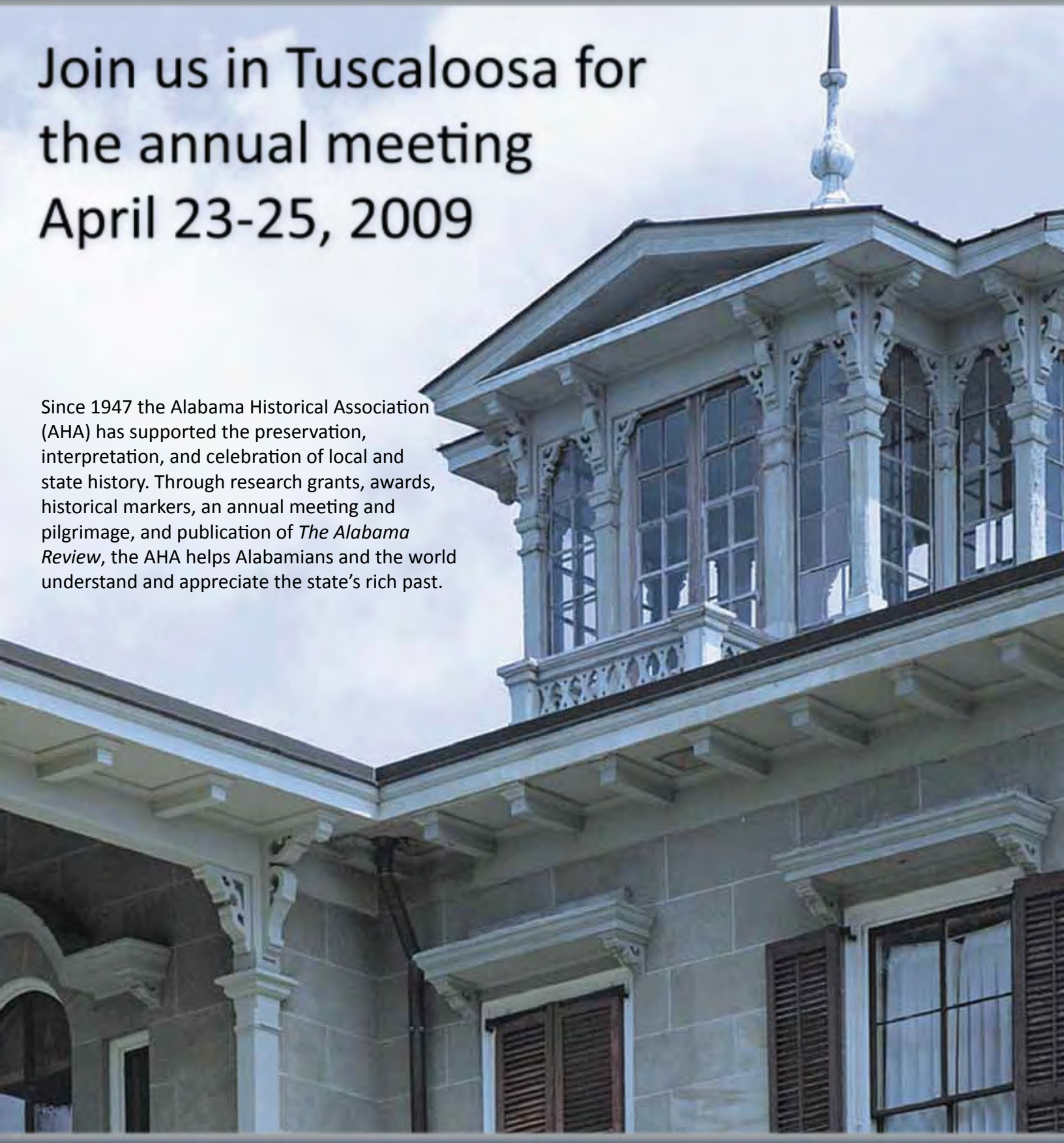


Bob Beatty of the American Association for State and Local History will be the speaker at the breakfast.



The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University is co-sponsoring the complimentary breakfast for officers of local historical societies. The Center is located in Auburn at Pebble Hill.

Alabama Historical Association



Join us in Tuscaloosa for the annual meeting April 23-25, 2009

Since 1947 the Alabama Historical Association (AHA) has supported the preservation, interpretation, and celebration of local and state history. Through research grants, awards, historical markers, an annual meeting and pilgrimage, and publication of *The Alabama Review*, the AHA helps Alabamians and the world understand and appreciate the state's rich past.

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Spring 2009

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President's Message

Recently I saw a story on the news about a man who went to see a doctor, complaining of depression. After talking to the patient for a few minutes, the doctor gave him a prescription: stop watching the nightly news on television. The man, according to the reporter, was now feeling a lot better.

It is easy these days to empathize with the depressed patient. Bad economic news leads the national news every night. Banks and businesses seem to fail with regularity. Major manufacturers are teetering on the brink of collapse. Unemployment has risen to levels not seen in many years. Consumer spending, charity giving, and travel are all down. Even here in Alabama, where times have been relatively good, we face a slowing economy, budget cuts out of Montgomery, and state proration.

At times like these, it is only natural for people to prioritize their activities and spending. As we learn in the sixth chapter of Matthew, "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Thankfully, members of the Alabama Historical Association continued to find a place in their hearts for the organization and its activities last fall and winter, even as the economy worsened. While similar associations lamented declining memberships and conference enrollment last fall, we had our usual strong turnout for an exhilarating pilgrimage in West Jefferson County. I expect the 2009 annual meeting to be just as successful. As you read this edition of the newsletter, you'll see that it definitely will be worth the trip to T-Town this April. George Rable and his Local Arrangements Committee have planned a conference that I think will be truly memorable. The Program Committee, chaired by Lonnie Burnett, offers a first-rate series of panels. The world-renowned Westervelt-Warner Museum will welcome our members on Thursday afternoon. With great assistance from our former president, Sarah Wiggins, we will be able to tour many of the gems of historic Tuscaloosa on Friday, including campus sites no longer open to the general public. Speaking at our dinner that night will be Professor Stephen Berry, who will tell the fascinating story of Mary Todd Lincoln's sisters Elodie and Matt, who spent the Civil War in Selma. And then you may join us Saturday morning for breakfast with none other than Pultizer Prize-winning author Rick Bragg.

Beyond the spring of 2009, AHA will continue to work toward preserving and presenting the history of the state, come what may. Already, member initiatives launched last summer in regard to cataloging missing and damaged historical markers are beginning to bear fruit. Association committees also are at work laying the groundwork for our involvement in three major commemorations: the two-hundredth anniversary of the Creek War, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, and the fiftieth anniversaries of several significant moments in the Civil Rights struggle. The *Alabama Review*'s financial situation sadly remains precarious, especially now that state budgets and private giving are tightening, but the Association is committed to its survival. Opportunities remain to help ensure its continued publication through targeted giving to the *Review*'s endowment.

At the end of The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald—certainly someone with an Alabama connection—writes wistfully of people as "boats against the current, borne ceaselessly into the past." Come join us in Tuscaloosa as we also row against the current, but into the future.



Tuscaloosa on My Mind

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Tuscaloosa: there's just something about the name.

It all started in 1540, when Hernando de Soto's expedition reached Chief Tuscaloosa's town somewhere in south Alabama. Unlike other Indians, this chief's warriors were not about to be intimidated; instead, they lured the Spaniards into a deadly trap from which de Soto and his men barely escaped.

No one knew where exactly the town was; indeed, no one knows today. The site and the tribe disappeared soon after de Soto and his men left. But Tuscaloosa was on the maps, even if every map had it in a different spot somewhere north of the Gulf of Mexico and south of the Tennessee River. It had to be somewhere, after all. During the first Creek War (1813-1814), David Crockett took part in a raid on what he called Black Warrior's Town; Crockett believed that he was near the present site of Tuscaloosa, but he was actually many miles upstream. A few years later, Congress reserved the falls of the Black Warrior River for a town site, and at last the peripatetic Tuscaloosa stayed put. When Alabama became a state in 1819, the name was given to one of the state's first counties. Tuscaloosa was also the name of the river that ran through the region, a name that the English correctly translated from Muskogee into Black Warrior. So a town, a county, and a river all shared the name of a chief who had been dead nearly three centuries.



Mural by Roderick D. MacKenzie depicting the meeting of Hernando DeSoto and Chief Tuscaloosa. Used by permission of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Not only the location, but the spelling created confusion. The Spanish and French spelled the chief's name phonetically as Tastaluca, Tascalisa, and all sorts of variations. Alabama legislators would also spell the name differently, even within the same act. The Democrats seemed to prefer Tuskaloosa, while the Whigs liked Tuscaloosa—inconsistently, of course. One nineteenth-century citizen became so enraged at the variations that he published a pamphlet, Eight Reasons Why Tuskaloosa Should be Spelled with a K.

Not satisfied with merely arguing over how to spell their town's name, Tuscaloosans started to invent nicknames. During the 1840s, while Tuscaloosa was the state's capital, some young men took it upon themselves to plant water oaks in a central row down one street. The town authorities followed the lead and soon every street had three rows of water oaks, welcomed during the hot summer as a "green parasol." Tuscaloosans began bragging about their City of Oaks. Eventually the City of Oaks became the Druid City, a reference to the Celtic priests' sacred trees. Not long ago I overheard a lady in the grocery store checkout lane point to the Druid City nickname and quietly tell her friend, "You know, in the early days Tuscaloosa was run by Satanists." This modern historian was following in a grand tradition. De Soto's Spaniards had compared Chief Tuscaloosa's height to that of the Spanish emperor, who was of medium height; but when Albert J. Picket published his History of *Alabama* in the 1851, Chief Tuscaloosa had grown into a seven-foot giant.

With the removal of the seat of government to Montgomery in November 1847, Tuscaloosa entered a

long period of decline. The town kept going largely through government institutions, particularly the University of Alabama, which had opened its doors in 1831. Town boosters sought to capitalize on the University's location by referring to Tuscaloosa as the Athens of the South, a nickname which was unfortunately shared with several other Southern towns. The Civil War was particularly hard on this Athens of the South, for Yankee cavalrymen burned the University to the ground in the war's closing days. But they left standing the Alabama Insane Hospital, now Bryce Hospital—a fact not lost on Tuscaloosa's detractors.

Tuscaloosa turned to developing industry and mining. Town boosters succeeded in getting locks and dams constructed so that boats could get past the miles of shoals to reach the vast coal fields that lay upriver. This time town boosters would appropriate another common nickname: the Pittsburgh of the South. It didn't work. Despite the coal mining and some rubber, paper, and steel making factories, Tuscaloosa's economic future would lie elsewhere: in the University, in medicine, and in Crimson Tide football.

Besides, all those nicknames did not capture the romance that the simple word Tuscaloosa evoked, especially among theatrical and musical performers. It may have started with the Marx Brothers. Harpo recalled getting so bored while performing here that the brothers would stop singing in the middle of a song to take bets on whether the bug crawling across the stage was a beetle, a cockroach, or a bedbug. In the movie Animal Crackers, Groucho played an African explorer who had trouble removing elephants' tusks because they were wedged in so tightly. "Of course," he deadpanned, "in Alabama, the tusks are looser."

Over the years Tuscaloosa has made its way into many song titles, among them: "Tuscaloosa" (from A Tree Grows in Brooklyn), "Tuscaloosa Blues," "Tuscaloosa from Alabama," "Tuscaloosa Heart," "Tuscaloosa Lucy," "Tuscaloosa Waltz," and the oddly titled "Tuscaloosa Yo Yo Man." At the beginning of Alfred Hitchock's black comedy, The Trouble with Harry, John Forsythe's character sings "Flaggin' the Train to Tuscaloosa." In 1975 Elvis Presley recorded a live album that he entitled From Chicago to Tuscaloosa for where it was recorded. And these titles do not begin to include the many casual references to Tuscaloosa and the Crimson Tide in lyrics and movies.

The same year that Elvis released his album, an off-Broadway musical, "Tuscaloosa's Calling Me . . . But I'm Not Going," premiered and ran for 452 performances. "Honeysuckle and Southern drawls," the cast crooned in the title song, "hummingbirds and old magnolias make me sad." Somehow I think that the lyricist never had to dodge traffic at the corner of Greensboro Avenue and University Boulevard.

So welcome to T-Town (a newcomer to the list of Tuscaloosa's nicknames). Before Tuscaloosa's favorite bar closed a few years ago, you could have had a beer under the Sistine Chucker, a ceiling fresco depicting, á la Michelangelo, God giving Adam a Budweiser. You may still see some of the honeysuckle and magnolias near the Mercedes Benz plant up the road. And yes, if you visit the library you will gaze at a seven-foot statue of Chief Tuscaloosa just as Albert J. Picket described (although this chief has a headdress straight out of a John Wayne movie). With any luck you can avoid the emergency room at Druid City Hospital (whoops, now the DCH Regional Medical Center). The rows of oak trees are gone, so calling our town the City of Oaks seems dated. You will definitely hear some Southern drawls. But all that hardly matters. What matters is that the Tuscaloosa of the mind is much more fun than the Tuscaloosa of brick, mortar, and facts.

Guy Hubbs is an associate professor and archivist at Birmingham-Southern College. His books include Tuscaloosa: Portrait of an Alabama County and vP vW v(uvvDlvP(vuuv
He is currently at work on another book, this one looking at four individuals whose paths crossed in 1868 Tuscaloosa. Guy lives in Tuscaloosa with his bride of thirty-two years.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 23

2:00 PM **Optional docent-led tour of Westervelt Warner Museum of American Art**
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6:00-8:00 PM **Reception and Registration**, Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion

Friday, April 24

8:30 AM **Registration**, University Church of Christ

9:30 AM **General Sesssion**, University Church of Christ

10:45 AM **Concurrent Sessions, niversity Church of Christ**

Session A

"'Every man should consider his own conscience': Alabamians' Reactions to Lincoln's Assasination," Harriet E. Amos Doss, University of Alabama Birmingham

"William Lowndes Yancey and the Rights of Women," Henry M. McKiven, Jr., University of South Alabama

"Hood's 'Yellow Hammers,'" Ben H. Severance, Auburn University Montgomery

Session B

"Banquet Menus of Early Birmingham," Kelsey Scouten Bates, Birmingham Public Library

"A Star on Field and Film: Alabama's Johnny Mack Brown," Ken Gaddy, Paul W. Bryant Museum

"The Rise and Decline of Alabama's Redneck Riviera," Harvey H. Jackson, Jacksonville State University

Session C

"Preserving Local African American History: Hunter Chapel AME Zion Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama," Amber Baker, Lauren Trimm, and Danielle Kidwell, University of Alabama

"The History of Bryce Hospital: Start to Stickney," H. Stephen Davis, Bryce Hospital

"Bryce Hospital: Architecture as Therapy," Robert Oliver Mellown, University of Alabama

Noon **Lunch, niversity Church of Christ**

1:00 PM **Afternoon Tours (maps available at the meeting)**

6:00 PM **Cash bar and self-guided tour of NorthRiver Yacht Club**

7:00 PM **Awards Dinner, NorthRiver Yacht Club**
"Abraham Lincoln's Alabama Kin during Wartime," Stephen Berry, University of Georgia

Saturday, April 25

7:30 AM **Breakfast (must pre-register),** hv(
Rick Bragg, University of Alabama

9:00 AM **Registration**, University Church of Christ

9:45 AM **General Sesssion**, University Church of Christ

10:45 AM **Concurrent Sessions, niversity Church of Christ**

Session A

"The Most Famous 'Good Roads' Woman in the United States: Alma Rittenberry of Birmingham," Marty Olliff, Troy University, Dothan Campus

"Lonesome and Dry as a Bone: William Logan Martin and the Enforcement of Alabama's Prohibition Law, 1915-1917," S. Jonathan Bass, Samford University

"Mobile's Political Colossus: Mayor Patrick J. Lyons, 1849-1921," David E. Alsobrook, Museum of Mobile

Session B

"'In the midst of life we are in death': Women, Religion, and Death in Civil War Alabama," Jennifer Ann Newman, Auburn Unversity

"'I ain't no lady. I'm a newspaper woman'; The Career of Hazel Brannon Smith," Wendy Reed, University of Alabama Center for Public Television and Radio

"Emma Jones of Mobile and the Alabama-China Connection," J. Barry Vaughn, University of Alabama

Session C

"Bringing Culture to Life: The Moundville Archaeological Project," William F. Bomar, Moundville Archaeological Park

"Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and the War of 1812," Mike Bunn, Columbus (GA) Museum, and Clay Williams, Old Capitol Museum

"The Mayan Diaspora Comes to Alabama," Ciro Sepulveda, Oakwood University

Noon **Annual Luncheon Session, niversity Church of Christ**
"Alabama, We Will Fight for Thee: The Initial Motivations of Later-Enlisting Confederates," Presidential Address, Kenneth W. Noe

Westervelt Warner Museum Tours







The Westervelt Warner Museum Welcomes the AHA to Tuscaloosa!

Come early on Thursday, April 23, and enjoy docent-led tours at 1 and 3 p.m.

Admission: $7 for Adults; $5 for Seniors (over 55)

If you plan to visit the museum, please reserve your place by e-mailing alabamahistory@gmail.com by April 9. For more information, contact Mark Wilson at 334-844-4948.

The Westervelt Warner Museum of American Art houses one of the world's finest collections of paintings, sculptures, furniture, and decorative arts. The halls of the museum are filled with works of prominent American artists such as Thomas Cole, Duncan Phyfe, Paul Revere, Andrew Wyeth, John Singer Sargeant, Winslow Homer, James McNeill Whistler, and Mary Cassatt. Over 400 pieces of artwork weave together a story of young America that is compelling, relevant, and unforgettable.

Jonathan "Jack" Westervelt Warner is one of the premiere collectors of American Art in the world today. As the third-generation CEO of his family company, Gulf States Paper Corporation, Jack began the collection in the 1950s with his first Audubon prints. Over 400 masterpieces in paintings, furniture, sculptures, and decorative arts from the late 1700's to the early 1900's attest to his discerning eye for quality. Jack's collection expresses his passion for life and his passion for America.

The Westervelt Warner Museum of American Art
2700 Yacht Club Way
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406
205-343-4540

Gorgas House



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The Gorgas House, part of the antebellum university campus, was built in 1828 as a dining hall for students. In the 1840s it was converted into a faculty residence. After the Civil War it became the home of Josiah Gorgas, a Confederate general and seventh president of the University, and his wife, Amelia Gayle Gorgas, the daughter of Alabama governor John Gayle. The Gorgas House is the only building by noted architect William Nichols to survive on campus. In addition to designing the University of Alabama and the state capitol in Tuscaloosa, Nichols later designed the Old Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi, and the University of Mississippi campus in Oxford.

President's Mansion



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Built in 1840 and designed by architect William Nichols, the President's Mansion is one of the outstanding examples of Greek Revival architecture in the nation. It is one of four structures of the original university that survived the campus' burning during the Civil War. Legend has it that the wife of University president Landon C. Garland saved the home from destruction in 1865 by a personal confrontation with Union soldiers who were about to set fire to it.

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Battle-Friedman House

The Battle-Friedman House was built around 1835 by Alfred Battle, a North Carolina native who had come to Tuscaloosa in 1821. The exterior of the house is stucco over brick and painted to resemble red marble. The front porch has distinctively Tuscaloosa-styled paneled square columns. Inside, elaborate plasterwork decorates the walls and ceilings of the front parlours and hallways. Some of this is original to the house, but the distinctive art deco nasturtium frieze in the halls was added by the Friedman family in the early part of the twentieth century. The house also contains a fine collection of renaissance revival furniture.



Thailand Temple Garden/Chancellor's Guest House



Designed and built by Jack Warner, this unique garden contains Mexican and Spanish tile and driftwood from White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The gazebo was built of salvaged antebellum brick, made by slaves for the Shelby Iron Works. The hand carvings on the gazebo and the temple supports are from an old Thailand Temple and were purchased fragment by fragment from a New York department store. The carvings reveal a goat, ox, rabbit, and sacred bull. The Thailand temple bird–circa 1720 –on top of the gazebo is made of brass and weighs about 200 pounds.

Murphy African-American Museum



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The Murphy-Collins House is the home of the Murphy African-American Museum. The lifestyle of affluent black citizens in the early 1900s is depicted in this house built by William J. Murphy, the first black licensed mortician in Tuscaloosa. African-American contractors built the two story bungalow in the late 1920s with brick and hand-hewn sills salvaged from the old State Capitol building in Tuscaloosa. Changing exhibits of local, state and national achievements of African-Americans are displayed.

Drish House

Dr. John R. Drish, a prominent early settler, built this house in 1837 as the focal point for a plantation that bordered the city limits of Tuscaloosa. Drish remodeled the mansion in the 1850s, adding massive columns and the distinctive Italianate tower. The house remained one of the finest residences in the city until 1906, when it was converted into a public school. In later years it deteriorated and was used as a garage. Walker Evans photographed the best-known mansion in the 1930s, and "Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company" remains one of his best known photographs.



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Meeting Sites and Accommodations

Reception

The Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion
1305 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
205-758-2906

Meeting Site

University Church of Christ
1200 Julia Tutwiler Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
205-553-3001

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Accommodations

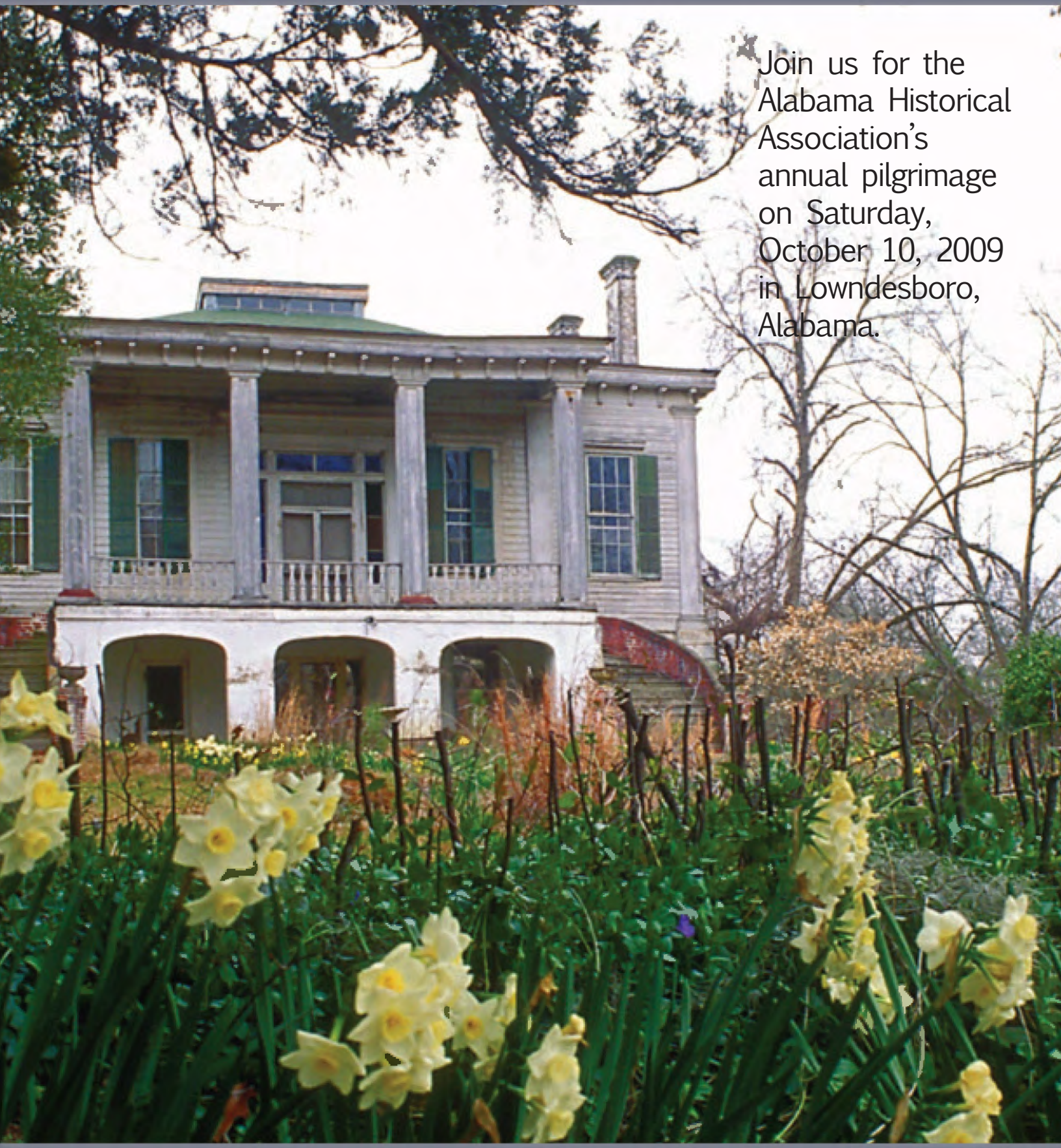
Hampton Inn Tuscaloosa - University
600 Harper Lee Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
205-553-9800
$105— Reserve by March 23rd

Courtyard by Marriott
4115 Courtney Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
205-750-8384
$99— Reserve by April 9th

Fairfield Inn by Marriott
4101 Courtney Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
205-366-0900
$89— Reserve by March 23rd

Best Western Park Plaza
3801 McFarland Blvd E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
205-556-9690
$71.00—Reserve by April 16th

Alabama Historical Association



Join us for the Alabama Historical Association's annual pilgrimage on Saturday, October 10, 2009 in Lowndesboro, Alabama.

Volume 24, Issue 2

Fall 2009

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Dorothy Walker, Alabama Historical Commission
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John R. Williams, Huntingdon College
Jerry Windsor, Graceville, FL



President's Message

Gary Burton, President, Pintlala

Lowndesboro, Alabama must be experienced.

It was a seminal thought which Leah Rawls Atkins implanted in my mind when she suggested that Lowndesboro be given consideration as the site for this year's fall pilgrimage. The seed of that idea has germinated over the last few months and will come to fruition on October 10 when people across Alabama converge upon this historic village between Montgomery and Selma.

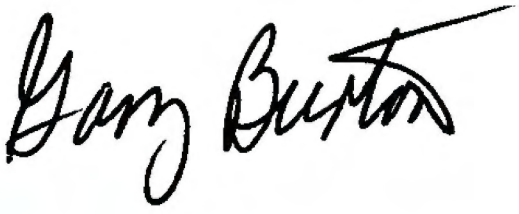
Across the years I have been privileged to have a number of friends in Lowndesboro. When I approached them wanting their help in identifying the most capable planner and organizer, they spoke with one voice: Dot Dickson. And they were right. Over the last few months Dot has opened her beautifully appointed home for planning meetings. She has helped us assemble the finest and most talented team to prepare for the fall pilgrimage: Peggy McPherson, Tyson and Laura Howard, Wayne and Gwen Taylor, and Jean Styles, AHA Board member. This group brings much more than rich experience to the task; they bring amazing enthusiasm too. Their hard work, combined with Secretary Mark Wilson's ability to leave no detail unaddressed, bodes well for us in October.

An excursion down the prominent thoroughfare of Lowndesboro, garrisoned on each side by historic churches, antebellum homes, and old cemeteries, will make one think that this is the town time forgot. Yet the citizens of this village, tucked away on the north side of Highway 80, have preserved the best of the past while harnessing contemporary resources.

At the outset of our one-day pilgrimage, we will convene in the old CME Church to hear brief presentations from panelists who will erase all doubt about the incredible significance of this unique Alabama town. So just why is Lowndesboro important? Major, watershed events helping to shape us as a state occurred in and around Lowndesboro: (1) the Creek War and subsequent treaty made possible the eventual migration of settlers into our state. Holy Ground is only a short distance away; (2) the Civil War, especially the final days of the conflict, and Emancipation; (3) the Civil Rights Movement and Freedom Trail continue to impact the town. The Lowndes County Interpretive Center is ten minutes away.

This trilogy of events continues to define the essence of what it means to live in Alabama. So when you experience Lowndesboro, be prepared for an intellectual and experiential feast.

AHA membership has its privileges. Make your plans now for October 10.



Cover photo: Rosewood, by Chip Cooper. We are deeply indebted to Chip Cooper, Tuscaloosa, for his permission to use photographs from his book, Silent in the Land.

Pilgrimage Preview

CME Church

1830s



In the early 1830s, through the efforts of a wealthy planter, Major William Robinson, the Methodist-Protestant Church (as it was originally named) was built. It was a typical end-gabled structure with a portico across the entire front, supported by four wooden columns. Inside, narrow stairs wind on either side to the balcony across the rear of the church. On the roof is a small octagonal steeple topped with the copperplated dome which once graced the state capital at Cahaba.
Photo by Wayne Taylor.

Marengo

Howard-Reese-Powell-Landmarks House
1847

Marengo was originally built in Autauga County by Dr. Charter Campbell Howard, who decided in 1854 to improve his practice by moving to Lowndesboro, bringing his house with him. Each brick and board was separately dismantled, numbered, and floated down the Alabama River to Newport Landing, and then transported by ox-card to its present site and re-erected.
Photo by Wayne Taylor.



Steelehaven

1818

Powell-Harbison-Steele House



Steelehaven, constructed by Lorenzo Powell in 1818, is one of the oldest homes in the Black Belt, a fine example of the country homes built prior to the prosperous 1850s. Features to be noted are the four brick chimneys made of handmade brick and the front and side verandas supported by small square columns with connecting banisters on the front veranda.

Lorenzo Powell received a land grant in 1818 to this plantation and built a two-room log house. The present house was constructed in the early 1830s, and the log house was incorporated into this structure as an ell. This was used as the kitchen and large pantry. Inside, the wood paneling of the chair rails, the heart pine floor, the eight plain mantels, and the simple staircase are further marks of the antiquity of the home.
Photo by Chip Cooper.

Mockingbird Place

1834



Mockingbird Place, a raised cottage with a Greek Revival portico, is an example of the transition from the style of simple cottage to homes of modest elegance. The kitchen and dining room are located in the basement, completely bricked with the original brick sunk into red clay.
Photo by Wayne Taylor.

President's Home

1834

As home for the presidents of the Lowndesboro Female Institute, the President's Home served as the social center for the community and surrounding area for many years. An L-shaped, two-story frame structure, the house is a notable example of retardataire Federal style architecture in central Alabama and has identical entrance porticoes on the east and north fronts supported by four Doric columns. The four sets of double doors are framed by fanlights and sidelights.
Photo by Wayne Taylor.



Rosewood

Wooten-Howard-Meadows-Williams House
1855

"Had Settlement Nov. 17, 1855 with Edmund Harrison and paid him in full for building my dwelling house, extra work also brickwork on the kitchen and smokehouse," Dr. Hardy Vickers Wooten wrote in his diary after the completion of Rosewood, a country house built in the Palladian spirit. "It is exactly to my notion."

The lumber for the house was hauled in wagons from Picket's Mill near Autaugaville, with additional materials floated by boat up the Alabama River. After Wilson's Raiders burned Selma during the Civil War, they march to Lowndesboro and camped nearby in a grove of trees on their way to capture Montgomery.
Photos by Chip Cooper.





Holy Ground Battlefield Park



Holy Ground Battlefield Park is the site of the December 23, 1813 battle between Creek Indians led by William Weatherford, also known as Red Eagle, and American forces under the direction of Brig. Gen. Ferdinand Claiborne, as well as Choctaw allies. The Americans killed twenty-one Creeks and forced the rest into the Alabama River and surrounding swamps. Red Eagle escaped by leaping his horse, Arrow, from a 12-foot bluff into the Alabama River and swimming to the opposite shore with his rifle over his head, while bullets spattered around him.
Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Lowndes County Interpretive Center

Lowndes County Interpretive Center in Hayneville is dedicated to the memory of the protesters of the Selma to Montgomery March in March 1965 during the civil rights movement. The Interpretive Center opened in 2006 as the first of three sites established by the National Park Service (NPS) to commemorate, preserve and interpret the events, people, and route of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965.
Photo by the National Park Service.



For articles on the Battle of Holy Ground and Lowndes County, visit www.encyclopediaofalabama.org.

2009 Fall Pilgrimage Venue:

CME Church
61 N. Broad Street
Lowndesboro, AL 36752

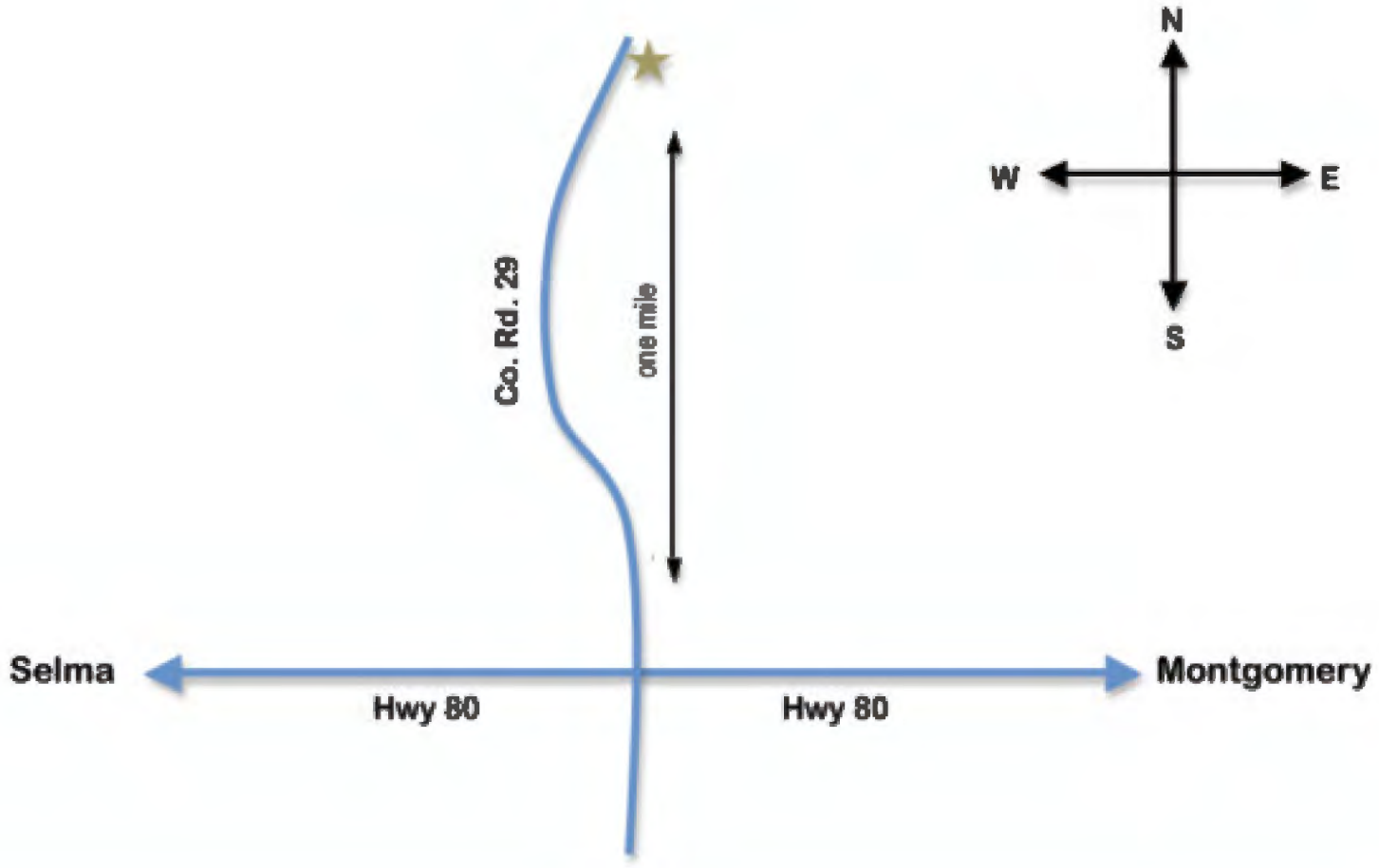
Directions to the Pilgrimage Program Venue

Exit I-65 just south of Montgomery at Exit # 167.

Go west on US Hwy 80 (four lane) toward Selma for 16.3 miles.

Turn right on Cty Road 29 at caution light.
NOTE: A BP gas station is on the left side of Hwy 80 at this intersection.

Proceed 1 mile and CME Church will be on the right.

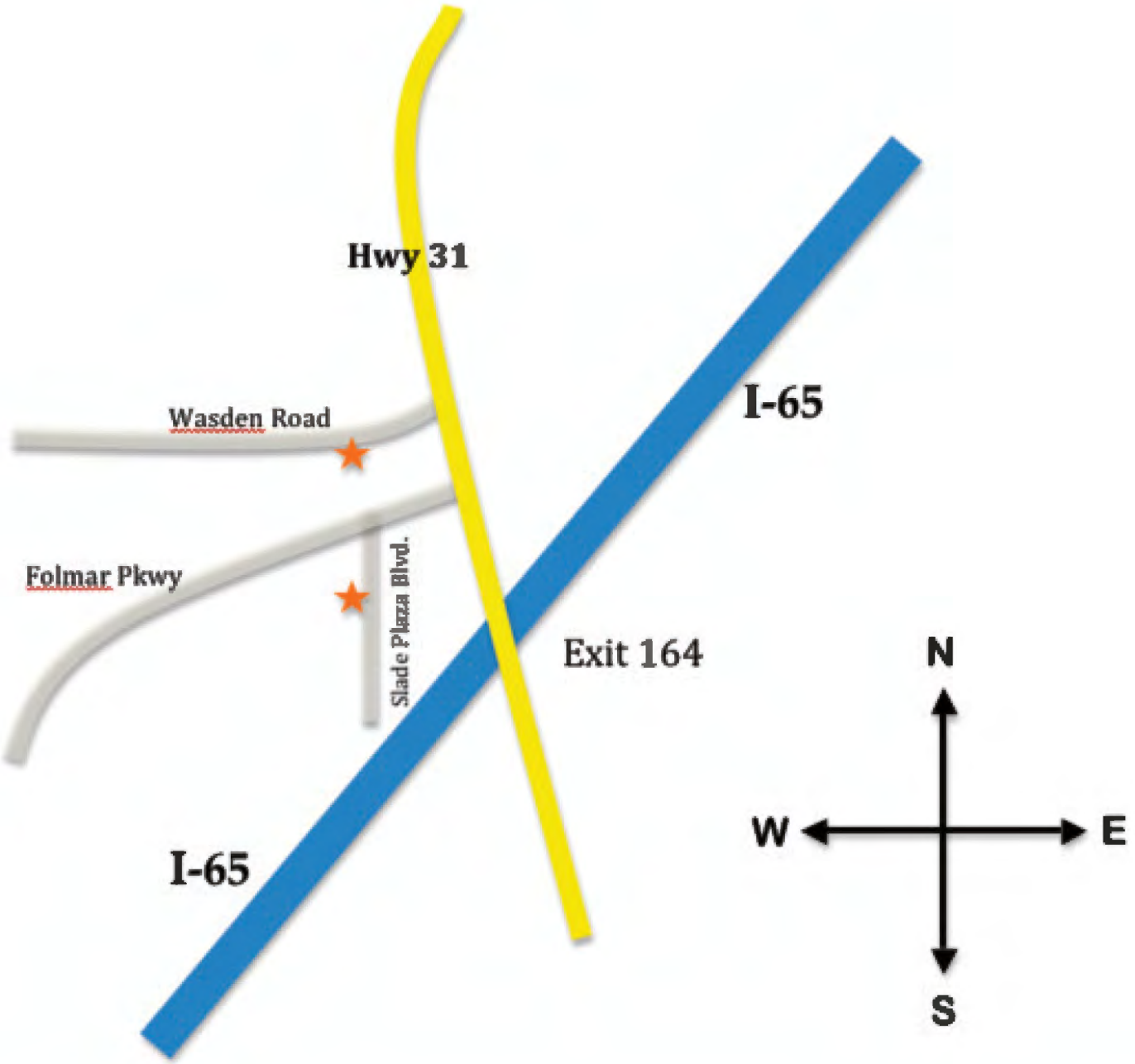


Accommodations

Hampton Inn
60 Wasden Rd.
Hope Hull, AL 36043
334-280-9592
$89, plus tax
Rooms must be reserved by October 2, 2009.

Best Western
7731 Slade Plaza Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36105
334-280-0306
$62.95, plus tax
Rooms must be reserved by September 9, 2009.

Both hotels are located south of the city of Montgomery, off Interstate 65, at exit 164.



Pilgrimage Schedule


Wayne Taylor


Dr. Kathryn Braund


Robyn Harris


Dr. Wayne Flynt


Dr. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton

8:30AM **Registration, Book Sales, Coffee**
Historic CME Church
61 N. Broad Street
Lowndesboro, AL 36752

10:00AM **Welcome**
Gary Burton, President, Alabama Historical Association

Welcome
Dot Dickson, President, Lowndesboro Landmarks Foundation

Panel Presentation

"A Glimpse into Lowndesboro's Past"
Wayne Taylor, Lowndesboro

"Battle of Holy Ground"
Dr. Kathryn H. Braund, Auburn University

"Lowndes County Civil Rights History"
Robyn Harris, National Park Service

A Tribute to Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton
Dr. Wayne Flynt, Past President of the Association

11:30AM **Lunch at Marengo House (directly across from church)**

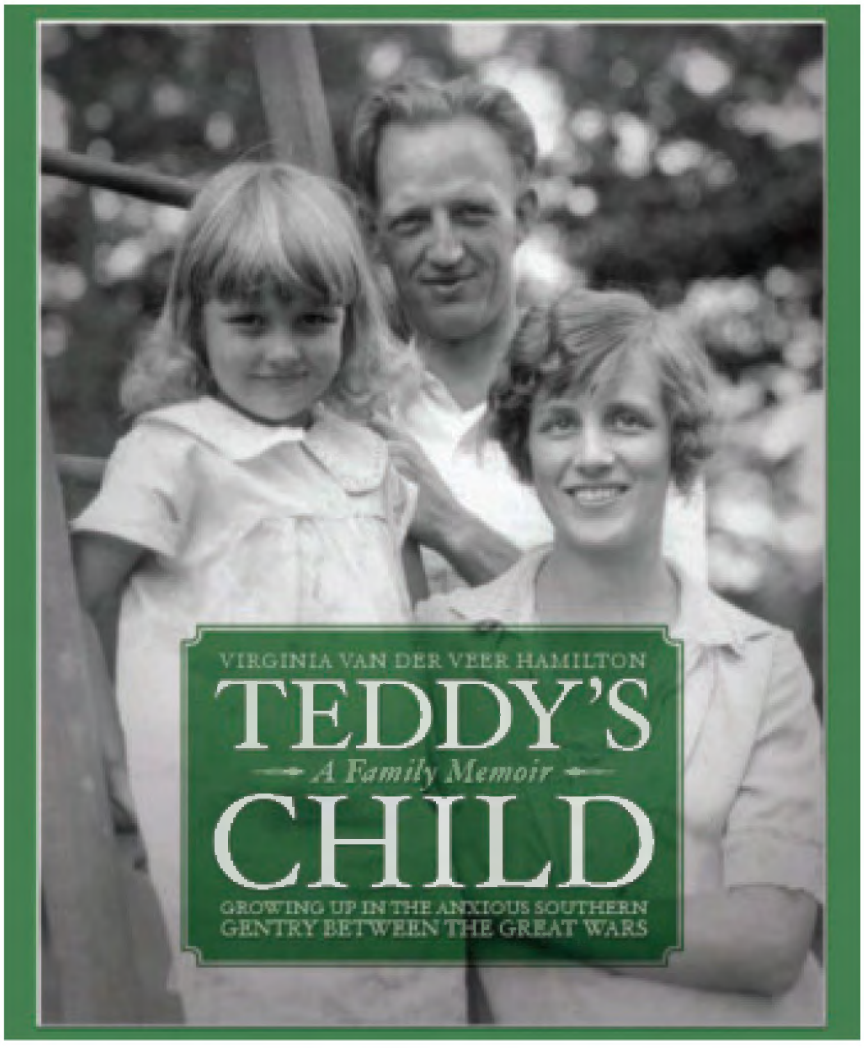
12:30-3:30PM **Self- Guided Tours**

Steelehaven
Mockingbird Place
President's Home
Rosewood
Holy Ground Battlefield Park
Lowndes County Interpretive Center

Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton to Sign New Book

Dr. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton, preeminent historian of Alabama and longtime supporter of the AHA, will be available at the pilgrimage luncheon to sign copies of her new family memoir, *Teddy's Child: Growing Up in the Anxious Southern Gentry Between the Great Wars,* published by NewSouth Books. Dr. Wayne Flynt, Auburn University professor emeritus, will discuss Hamilton's significance as author and historian as part of the pilgrimage program.

During and after World War II, Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton became a pioneer in journalism and academe—two careers in which only a small minority of women then participated. She was the AP reporter for the "women's beat" at the Truman White House. While a wife and mother, she became the second woman to earn a Ph.D. degree from the History Department of the The University of Alabama. She taught at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, chaired its history department for ten years, and wrote eight award-winning books as well as numerous articles in scholarly journals.



Howell Raines, former Executive Editor, *The New York Times:*

"This is a wonderful book. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton has long been noted for her polished historical writing. Now she turns her literary skills to an enthralling personal history of her colorful, troubled family. Her account of that family's battle against hereditary anxiety and depression is unflinching, but also loving and inspiring. With the fine eye of a novelist, she also recreates a lost time when Southern intellectuals struggled under the twin burdens of racism and oppressive moral codes."

NewSouth Books will be present at the pilgrimage to sell copies of the book at a discount price for AHA members.

AHA Gives to Atkins Endowment

At its June 9 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Alabama Historical Association approved a $3,500 donation to the Leah Rawls Atkins Endowment for Excellence in Programming. The endowment will support the public humanities programs of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, the dedicated outreach office of the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Atkins, the founding director of the Center, established a tradition of public outreach in the arts and humanities that has profoundly influenced the cultural life of the state. "No individual has been more important to the enrichment and promotion of the humanities in Alabama than Dr. Atkins," notes AHA treasurer Steve Murray. "Through her teaching, scholarship, and leadership, Dr. Atkins has equipped organizations such as the Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities and the Alabama Historical Association to preserve Alabama history and to improve the quality of life of the state's citizens."

"AHA's support of the Atkins Endowment reflects a partnership and mutual support that have helped the center achieve its mission for many years," notes Jay Lamar, current director of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities. "It is an honor to Dr. Atkins and a most meaningful and treasured expression of support for the Center's future. We could not be more grateful to AHA and its generous membership."

For additional information on the Leah Rawls Atkins Endowment for Programming, please contact the College of Liberal Arts Office of Development at 334-844-1483. Contributions to the endowment should be made payable to the AU Foundation and may be sent to: Office of Development, College of Liberal Arts, 321 Biggin Hall, Auburn, Alabama 36849-5223.



The first graduate of the doctoral program in history at Auburn University, Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins served as AHA president in 1986-87. She served as the association's secretary from 1989 to 1997 and from 2002 to 2007. In 2008, the AHA recognized her service with the Rucker Agee Service Award.

AHA Meeting in Tuscaloosa

Ken Noe

On Thursday afternoon, April 23, 2009, Alabama Historical Association members began arriving in Tuscaloosa for the sixty-second annual meeting. Many of the early birds embraced the special opportunity to take a members-only tour of the world-class Westervelt-Warner Museum of American Art, which otherwise was closed to the public all weekend. That night, attendees gathered for an opening reception at the historic Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion, an Italianate masterpiece completed during wartime in 1862. With Civil War Era historians chairing the local arrangements and program committees, as well as presiding as Association president, that era not surprisingly would continue to be a recurring theme during the rest of the conference.



Members discover the latest books on Alabama history from NewSouth Books and the University of Alabama Press. Photo by Danny Crownover.

On a bright, beautiful Friday morning, roughly 200 attendees gathered at the University Church of Christ for the conference's first full day. Given the worsening national economy, the turnout was heartening to the officers and organizers alike. After the invocation and traditional welcomes, Guy Hubbs of Birmingham-Southern College delightfully explained how he first came to Tuscaloosa. He went on to speak on the more serious and intriguing local history behind one of the most familiar images of Reconstruction, the infamous cartoon of two lynching victims and a mule labeled "KKK."

The subsequent morning sessions concerned a variety of topics, including nearby Bryce Hospital, Tuscaloosa's Hunter Chapel AME Church, actor Johnny Mack Brown, eating in Birmingham, the "Redneck Rivera," and, of course, the Civil War. Following lunch, Association members fanned out across the University of Alabama campus and through the city for the traditional Friday afternoon tours, expertly arranged by Sarah Wiggins. Tour stops included the Murphy African-American Museum, the Battle-Friedman House, and the President's Mansion. The Drish House, once a fabulous mansion later immortalized in Walker Evans' Depression Era- photograph of the Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company, proved another popular venue. The scale model of that house, complete with a figure of Dr. John Drish dead at the bottom of the stairs, became the topic of many a dinner conversation. So did Secretary Mark Wilson's portable Auburn University chair, placed strategically near the Josiah Gorgas House without apparent incident.

That evening, members assembled at the NorthRiver Yacht Club for the annual dinner. Built by Jack Warner near his Westervelt-Warner Museum, the ornate club contains an extensive collection of nautical art and memorabilia. As usual, the association award presentations following the meal were a special highlight.

Scotty Kirkland received the Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant Award. The Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton Award for contributions to Alabama history went to Jay Lamar. Sylviane Diouf received the James F. Sulzby Book Award for her *Dreams of Africa in Alabama*. As she could not attend the meeting, Sulzby Committee Chair Jim Day read her acceptance speech, which described how her positive personal experiences with Alabama and Alabamians had changed her previously negative views of the state. Following the award presentations, Stephen Berry of the University of Georgia spoke eloquently on "Abraham Lincoln's Alabama Kin during Wartime." Professor Berry described the often-tragic lives of Mary Todd Lincoln's siblings with a particular focus on sisters Martha and Elodie, who spent the Civil War in Selma. Several AHA members later praised the program as one of the most spellbinding in Association history.

Saturday morning proved to be another lovely day. A large crowd gathered again at the church for breakfast and the morning speaker, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Bragg. He briefly used the Civil War as a springboard to movingly discuss his family's later history in the state. At times both hilarious and gripping, Bragg's address elicited many questions and much enthusiasm. The business meeting and election of new officers followed. Morning sessions proceeded, with topics ranging from Native Americans past and present to the lives of Alabama women, state politics, and prohibition. The annual luncheon session closed the meeting, with President Ken Noe speaking on the motivations of "later-enlisting" Confederate soldiers from Alabama. Adjournment and promises to meet again in Lowndesboro for the Fall Pilgrimage followed.



David Alsobrook presents Jay Lamar with the Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton award.



Gordon and June Maddox.



Wayne Flynt, Steve Murray, Ethan Trevino, and Jennifer Newman.

Faithful Member Donates Portion of Estate to AHA

William Johnson Jr., longtime member of the AHA and resident of Montgomery, passed away on January 25, 2008 at the age of eighty-seven. Johnson directed a portion of his estate to the Alabama Historical Association, a gift of nearly $16,000.



"Mr. Johnson is fondly remembered by all of us as a gentle and kind man, and his presence at AHA meetings will be missed," says Steve Murray, treasurer. "The AHA Board of Directors has agreed to direct this gift into the publishing endowment for *The Alabama Review*, which means his generosity will make a long-term contribution to the work of the Association."

As an engineer in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Johnson was responsible for the Air Transport Command in the China Burma India Theatre of World War II and received the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and Bronze Star for his service. He shared some of his war experiences with members at the 2004 annual meeting through a paper titled "'Pick's Pike': That 'Impossible' World War II Military Highway from Ledo, India to Kunming, China." Johnson worked as an aerodynamics and structures engineer for General Dynamics, the Chrysler Corporation Space Division, and the Army Air Force Reserve until retirement in 1980.

Johnson was predeceased in death by his beloved wives, Helen Mars and Maxine Bowles. He will be remembered for his pleasant demeanor and active participation in the work of the Alabama Historical Association.



Johnson (right) visits with Joe Jones and Ola Ann Lee at an annual meeting.

Call for Papers

63rd Annual Meeting
Gadsden, Alabama
April 15-17, 2010

The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers to be given at its 63rd annual meeting in Gadsden, Alabama on April 15-17, 2010. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a 20-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a c.v. or resume including the author's e-mail address, telephone number, postal address, and academic affiliation (if any). **Electronic submissions are preferred.**

Presenters will be required to register for the conference and be members of the AHA by the time of the meeting. The committee gives preference to authors who have not presented papers at the annual meeting within the past three years.

Please send your submissions and any questions you may have to the program chair:

Dr. Ruth Truss
Department of History
Station 6180
University of Montevallo
Montevallo, AL 35115
trussr@montevallo.edu



(Right) Gadsden's Noccalula Falls Park boasts a spectacular 90-foot waterfall and botanical garden with over 25,000 azaleas.

Annual Report of *The Alabama Review* (2008)

Bill Trimble, Editor

As many of our members already know, last year was a year of change for the *Review*. First and foremost, Jeff Jakeman stepped down as editor in the fall. I personally am grateful for Jeff's dozen years of service to the *Review* and the association. Without him, I doubt the *Review* would have survived in its present form as a quarterly scholarly journal, and perhaps not at all. We owe him our most sincere thanks. I took over as editor in October, with responsibility for the January 2009 issue. I am much obliged to Carey Cauthen, our associate editor, for making what I believe was as seamless a transition as was possible. It has been a pleasure working with her this past year, and I look forward to having her on board for years to come. Our graduate assistant, Tommy Brown, has been with us all year, helping out with book reviews, fact checking, and other mundane tasks essential to publishing the *Review*.

New additions to the *Review*'s Editorial Board last year were Tony Carey from Appalachian State University and Judy Sheppard from Auburn University. Gordon Harvey (Jacksonville State University) and John Fair (Georgia College and State University) kindly agreed to stay on for second terms. Their expertise, as well as that of our "outside" referees, ensures that the articles appearing in the *Review* meet the best academic standards.

I am pleased, also, to report that we have eliminated a backlog of manuscripts pending decision and now have a healthy selection of manuscripts accepted and waiting for copy-editing and publication. Ultimately, though, we depend on you and your friends and colleagues to research, write, and send us your manuscripts. Although we welcome submissions dealing with all aspects of the state's history, of particular interest to us are the immigrant experience in Birmingham (or other Alabama cities), women and ethnic minorities, sports history, the 1930s, 1940s, the Depression and World War II, transportation, and pre-Civil War industrialization.

We need money just as much as we need manuscripts to continue publication of the *Review*. I am happy to report that State Representative Mike Hubbard once more stepped up with funding for the 2010 fiscal year, thus guaranteeing issues through at least October 2010. We also have an understanding that the bequest from Association member Bill Johnson will be used to help offset the costs of the *Review*. Nevertheless, to cover all our expenses for the year we will have to dip into the *Review*'s reserves. I have to stress that such windfalls as the Johnson bequest, welcome as they are, and year-to-year funding from the state, especially in today's economic climate, cannot assure our long-term financial stability. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Association to establish a dedicated fund sufficient to pay for staff and other publication costs of the Review or risk seeing the state lose its only scholarly historical journal.

Coming up will be the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011, followed the next year by the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Creek War. We are looking ahead to publishing special issues commemorating these key events in Alabama history. It is not too early for those of you who have done research on these subjects to send us manuscript articles.

When you get a chance, please check out the new look of the *Review*'s website, thanks to the work of Carey Cauthen. Carey and I, in full consultation with the *Review*'s Editorial Board, are also considering updates to the appearance of the *Review*. I assure everyone that whatever changes we make will not be sudden or drastic and will not add significantly to the costs of publication.

I greatly appreciate the hard work of everyone involved with the *Review* this past year and look forward to serving the Association as editor in the years to come.

Historical Markers

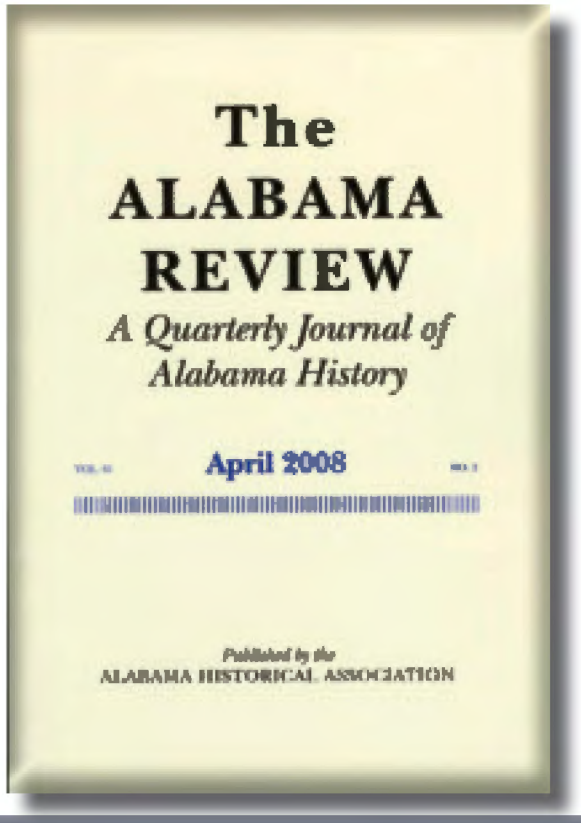
The Alabama Historical Association began sponsoring historical markers as early as 1950, and a standing AHA marker committee was created in 1952. The committee's duties are to encourage and assist interested parties in the purchase and erection of markers for historical sites. The committee also serves to check the accuracy of information carried in the proposed marker texts and to attest to a site's historic importance. The distinctive design of the Alabama Historical Association marker is a double-faced cast aluminum plate with a baked enamel finish. The plate has a deep blue background and the text is portrayed in gold letters. The insignia at the top is the Alabama flag, the St. Andrew's cross, in red, white, and gold.



Jim Bennett

For more information regarding historical markers, please visit www.archives.state.al.us/aha/marker.html.

Make a lasting contribution to Alabama history with a gift to the *Alabama Review* endowment fund.



All contributions are tax-deductible and will ensure a solid financial future for our state's quarterly journal on Alabama history. Designate your contribution to the "Alabama Review Endowment" and mail to:

Alabama Historical Association
P.O. Box 300100
Montgomery, AL 36130

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Save the Date for the 2010 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars and join us for the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association!

The meeting will be held at the Crosspoint Community Church.

Hotel reservations can be made at the Gadsden Inn and Suites (800-637-5678) and Hampton Inn (256-546-2337). Mention the AHA to receive a discounted rate.

Complete information will be available in the spring newsletter.

April 15-17, 2010 Gadsden, AL



The Howard Gardner Nichols Memorial Library in Gadsden became the first public library in the state of Alabama in 1902. Photo by Danny Crownover.

Alabama Historical Association

Join us in Gadsden for the annual meeting, April 15-17, 2010.



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Spring 2010

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President's Message

Gary Burton, President, Pintlala

When the Alabama Historical Association convenes in April, lovers of Alabama history will find themselves delightfully mesmerized by the magnificence of Gadsden. Not since 1958 have so many historians, both avocational and professional, descended on this town in northeast Alabama for their annual meeting. Newspaper accounts in 1958 describe the arrival in Gadsden of the titans of Alabama history and members of the "Alabama State Historical Society." Six of the association's presidents attended that meeting and posed for a newspaper photo, including Charlie G. Summersell, Peter A. Brannon, James F. Sulzby Jr., William H. Brantley Jr., Ralph B. Draughon, and Rucker Agee.

Fifty-two years later, for the 2010 AHA meeting, members once again find themselves welcomed by Gadsden. As arrangements for the meeting have been made, the goodwill and gracious hospitality of Danny Crownover, president of the Etowah Historical Society, has almost overwhelmed the planning committee, and the city of Gadsden, led by Mayor Sherman Guyton, has made resources available to our organization in an unprecedented manner.

Our hope is that solid history and the stuff of legend and folklore will combine to create an unforgettable experience for those who travel to Gadsden in April. All the sessions promise to be exceptional. In extending the call for papers and scheduling the breakout sessions, Dr. Ruth Truss's knowledge of the state and her winsome personality have resulted in a smorgasbord of choices that will enrich our appreciation of the state we love. We also look forward to hearing from renowned speakers, Dr. John Ferling and Mary Saums, who will both inform and inspire us. I can hardly wait.

Participants will also have an opportunity to learn about Gadsden and to be transported back in history—to the time of the first steamboat rounding the bend on the Coosa River in 1845; to the tense days of the Civil War and the heroism of Emma Sansom; to the year when the first public library was constructed in nearby Alabama City; to the period of our state's history in which William Patrick Lay founded the Alabama Power Company; and to the time when Gadsden was the epicenter for heavy industries such as Goodyear Tire and Republic Steel. The city of Gadsden and the surrounding county is rich in history, and we look forward to exploring that history.

I encourage you to register for the annual meeting soon so that you can experience the richness of Gadsden's past, the mystique of its contemporary culture, and the vibrancy of its future.



Cover photo courtesy of Karen Henricks.

Gadsden/Etowah County to Host 63rd Annual Meeting

(The following article by Patricia Hoskins Morton is published courtesy of *The Encyclopedia of Alabama*. Visit the free, online resource on Alabama's history, culture, geography, and natural environment at www.encyclopediaofalabama.org).

Located in the northeast corner of the state, Etowah County has been an industrial center of Alabama since the nineteenth century. It is the birthplace of William Patrick Lay, the founder of Alabama Power. The city of Gadsden played an important role in both the Civil War and World War II and is home to one of the state's most breathtaking geographic features, Noccalula Falls, a 100-foot waterfall.



EMMA SANSOM STORY RETOLD—Mrs. Clarence Oliver, Gadsden, secretary of the Etowah Historical Society, is telling the story of Emma Sansom to a group of delegates at the state meet. Left to right, Mrs. Charles Summersell, Tuscaloosa; Mrs. Malcolm McMillan, Auburn; Emma Sansom (figure); Mrs. Oliver; Mrs. James Sulzby, Jr., Miss Mary Dale and Mrs. Frank Dixon, all of Birmingham. (Times Staff Photo by Vernell Bowen)

The 1958 meeting in Gadsden drew members from every corner of the state. Photo courtesy of Etowah Historical Society.

Etowah County was created by an act of the Alabama State Legislature on December 7, 1866, from portions of Cherokee and DeKalb counties. Originally named Baine County in honor of Confederate General David W. Baine, the county existed for one year before being abolished by the state's Reconstruction government. One year later, the county was recreated and named Etowah, a Cherokee word believed to mean "edible tree."

The first settlement in what is now Etowah County was located at a town called Double Springs on the Coosa River. Double Springs was transformed on July 4, 1845, when Captain James Lafferty piloted the first steamboat to the area. Local residents offered to name the town "Lafferty's Landing" in his honor, but Lafferty declined. Instead, the name Gadsden was chosen, in honor of Colonel James Gadsden of South Carolina, famous for the Gadsden Purchase.

On May 2, 1863, during Union colonel Abel Streight's raid through north Alabama, a local farmer named John Wisdom gained notoriety when he raced ahead of Streight's troops, who were in turn being pursued by Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest, to Rome, Georgia, to warn the town's citizens of the Union troops' impending arrival. A young girl named Emma Sansom became a local heroine during the raid when she led Forrest and his men across Black Creek to capture Streight's troops.

In 1903, Gadsden resident William Patrick Lay built his first hydroelectric plant on Big Wills Creek, which furnished the town of Attalla with electricity. He organized Alabama Power Company in 1906. Gadsden became an important military center during World War II, when the Gadsden Ordnance Plant was constructed to produce shells for cannons. By the end of the war in

1945, the plant had produced more than 16 million shells.

In 1942, the U.S. took possession of 36,300 acres in Etowah and adjoining St. Clair County to establish Alabama's first Chemical Warfare Center (CWC). Known as Camp Sibert, it served as a Unit Training Center and a Replacement Training Center for the CWC. Deactivated in 1945, Camp Sibert was the training site for more than 45 percent of all CWC troops who served in WWII. In 1963, Etowah County received national media attention when civil-rights worker William Moore was murdered near Attalla.

Because of its rolling and hilly terrain, Etowah County has never been an agricultural powerhouse. Instead, the county's natural resources and large labor force have made it one of the most important industrial centers in Alabama. In 1845, Coosa Furnace, located on the banks of Big Wills Creek, became the first iron furnace built in the county. In 1895 Dwight Mill in Alabama City was organized, and at the height of its production in 1953, it employed 2,600 people. The mill, which included a village, eventually closed as a result of strikes in 1959. In 1900 Underwood Coal Company was organized and later purchased by Alabama Steel. At one point, the company had 11 mines in operation near the town of Altoona.

In 1929 Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company constructed a plant in Gadsden. At the turn of the twenty-first century it remained the largest employer in the county, with 2,550 workers. On October 5, 2006, U.S. Steel workers went on strike at the plant, which left approximately half the workers without jobs. As of August 2007, Goodyear announced that it would spend close to $125 million to upgrade the plant. The second largest employer, Gulf States Steel, organized in 1903 and in 1998 employed 1,900 workers. In 2000 the company declared bankruptcy and closed.

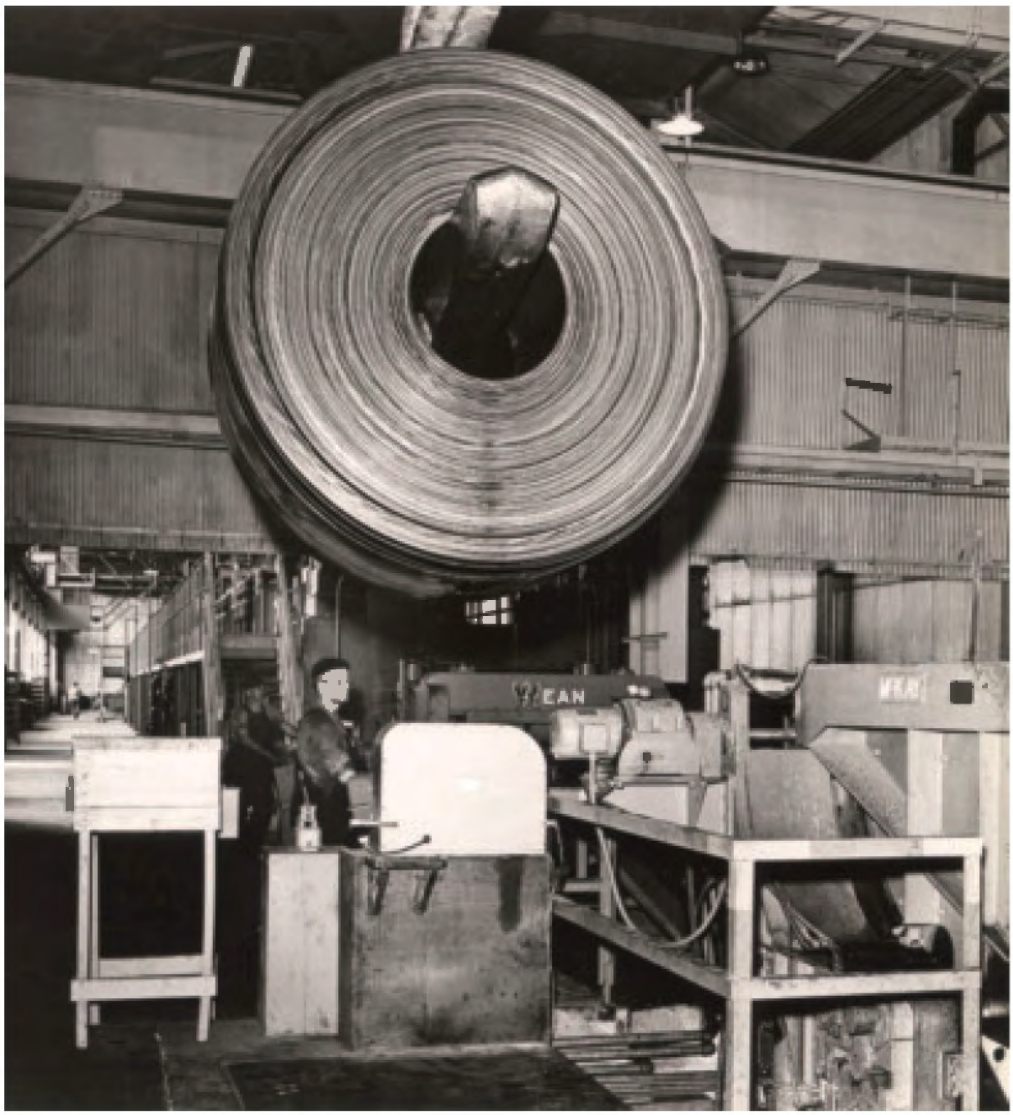


Photo courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Comprising approximately 542 square miles, Etowah County lies in the northeastern area of the state, wholly within the Cumberland Plateau physiographic section. It is bounded to the east by Cherokee County, to the south by Calhoun and St. Clair counties, to the west by Blount and Marshall counties, and to the north by DeKalb County.

The Coosa River runs north to south through the eastern half of the county, and two of its tributaries, Black and Big Wills creeks, intersect the area. In 1966, Alabama Power constructed H. Neely Henry Dam on the Coosa River, creating the H. Neely Henry Lake, which covers the southern tip of Etowah County. In addition, both the Sand Mountain and Lookout Mountain ranges are located in the county. Interstate 59 runs north-south through the center of the county, and U.S. 11 and U.S. 411 parallel the same route. U.S. 278 runs east-west through the center of the county, and U.S. 431 runs north-south.

The Alabama Historical Association is honored to convene its 63rd annual meeting in Gadsden, and we are indebted to the City of Gadsden and the Etowah Historical Society for making the event possible.

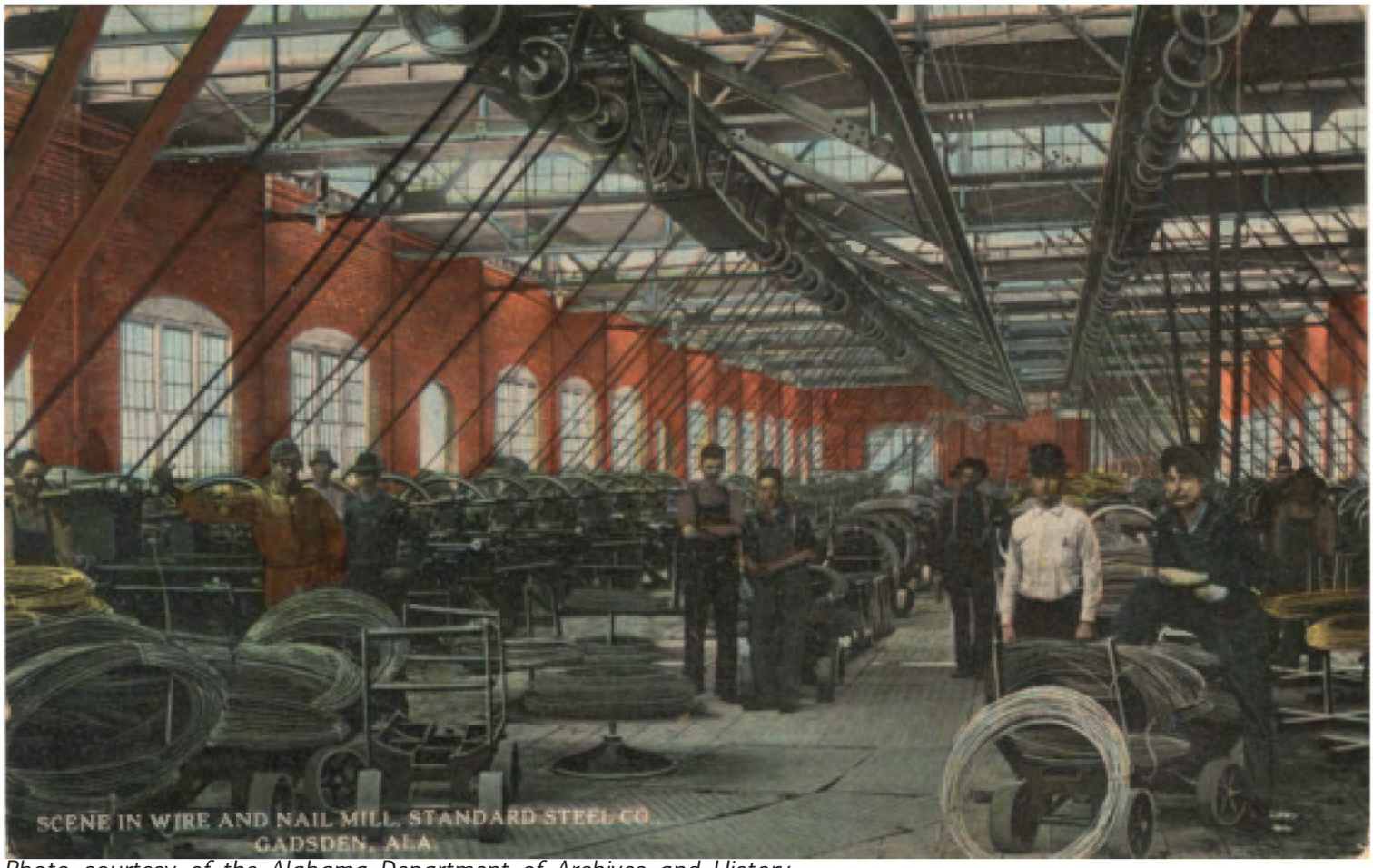


Photo courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Pre-Meeting Opportunities

Members of the Alabama Historical Association are invited to arrive early on Thursday for the annual meeting in Gadsden and enjoy either a guided tour of historic Noccalulla Falls or a visit to the Etowah Historical Society and Jerry B. Jones Historical Research Library. Both events are available at no cost to members.

Noccalula Falls is home to a 90-foot natural waterfall named for the legendary Cherokee princess who fell to her death to avoid an arranged marriage. The park includes a pioneer village complete with cabins made of hand-hewn logs, grist mill, country store, blacksmith shop, smokehouse, and more. Learn about the intriguing history of the Falls area from Danny Crownover, local historian and president of the Etowah Historical Society. The tour will begin at the Kiwanis Club Pavilion at 3 p.m., and the park is located at 1600 Noccalula Road, Gadsden, AL 35904.

The Jerry B. Jones Historical Research Library of the EHS is a repository for local and state history and contains the historical files and papers of the late Jerry B. Jones, genealogical source materials, census records, local newspapers, and a vast collection of historical maps and photographs. The Etowah Historical Society began in 1954 and is one of the state's most active societies with over 150 members. The EHS is located at the Elliott Community Center, at the intersection of 29th Street and Meighan Boulevard (U.S. Hwy 431), and members will be available to lead tours and assist researchers from 3 to 5 p.m.



Photo courtesy of the Alabama Tourism Department.



PAST PRESIDENTS ATTEND MEET—Six past presidents of the Alabama State Historical Society were present for the annual meeting yesterday and today at Hotel Reich. Left to right, seated, are Charlie G. Summerlell, University of Alabama, and Peter A. Brannon, Montgomery; standing, James F. Sulzby, Jr., Birmingham; William H. Brantley, Jr., Birmingham; Ralph B. Draughon, Auburn and Rucker Agee Birmingham. (Times Staff Photo by Clifford Watts)

Photo courtesy of the Etowah Historical Society.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 15

3:00–5:00 PM **Pre-Meeting Guided Tour of Noccalula Falls**
Etowah Historical Society Open House
(No cost; see page 7 for event details)

6:00 PM **Reception,** *Gadsden Museum of Art & History*

Friday, April 16

8:30 AM **Registration,** *Crosspoint Community Church*

9:30 AM **General Session,** *Crosspoint Community Church*

10:45 AM **Concurrent Sessions,** *Crosspoint Community Church*

Session A

"Creating a Crowd: Trilogies in Alabama Literature," Bert Hitchcock, Auburn University

"Life into Fiction: Harriet Hassell's *Rachel's Children*," Norman McMillan, University of Montevallo

"William March and Eugene B. Sledge: Mobilians, Marines, and Writers," Aaron Trehub, Auburn University

Session B

"To Save Alabama's Children: Power, Politics, and Child Labor, 1880–1908," Thomas Bockhorn, University of Alabama in Huntsville

"Rammed Earth Houses: An American Vision in the New Deal," Beth Hunter, Birmingham

"Rural Rehabilitation and Farm Security in Alabama," Charles Roberts, University of Alabama

Session C

"Race, Class and Volunteering: Alabama and the War of 1898," David Turpie, University of Maine

"John R. Steelman and Mob Violence in Alabama, 1930-1934," Kathleen Lowe, University of Montevallo

"The Twelve Greatest Air Battles of the Tuskegee Airmen," Daniel Haulman, Maxwell Air Force Base

Noon **Lunch,** *Crosspoint Community Church*

1:00 PM **Afternoon Tours** *(maps available at registration)*

6:00 PM **Cash Bar and Music by The Kings of Swing,** *Gadsden Country Club*

7:00 PM **Annual Banquet,** *Gadsden Country Club*
Keynote address by Dr. John Ferling

Saturday, April 17

8:00 AM **Breakfast,** *Crosspoint Community Church*
featuring novelist Mary Saums

9:00 AM **Registration,** *Crosspoint Community Church*

9:45 AM **General Session,** *Crosspoint Community Church*

10:30 AM **Concurrent Sessions,** *Crosspoint Community Church*

Session A

"The Great Depression in Alabama: Three Visiting Photographers," Frances Robb, Huntsville

"Captain Wallace E. White: A Perspective on Roosevelt's Forest Army in Alabama," Hayden McDaniel, Troy University, Dothan

"A 'Democratic Labor': The Tennessee Valley Authority and Regional Development in North Alabama, 1940-1960," Matthew Downs, University of Alabama

Session B

"A History of Norwood: One of Birmingham's Most Architecturally and Socially Diverse Early Twentieth-Century Neighborhoods," Pam King, University of Alabama at Birmingham

"Sloss Furnaces: The Industrial Evolution of Birmingham's Iron Plantation," Karen Utz, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark

"Pigskin to Stethoscopes: Football Players Who Practiced Medicine in Alabama," Tim Pennycuff, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Session C

"Elizabeth Lyle Saxon: From Alabama Belle to American Suffragist," Chance Harvey, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

"The 'Wedding': A Reconstruction of the Shared Economic, Educational, and Political Goals and Projects of Booker T. Washington and William E. B. Du Bois, 1887-1904," Bertis English, Alabama State University

"Weakley vs. Tyson: The 1906 Democratic Primary for Chief Justice," Tim Lewis, Alabama Supreme Court and State Law Library

11:45 AM **Annual Luncheon,** *Crosspoint Community Church*
"Pintlala's Cold Murder Case: The Death of Thomas Meredith in 1812," Presidential Address, Gary Burton

Tour Preview

Howard Garner Nichols Memorial Library



One of the first sites in Etowah County to be listed on the National Register of Historic places, the Nichols Memorial Library's unique design and architecture is reminiscent of an ancient Greek temple. Following his graduation from Harvard University, Howard G. Nichols came to Alabama to oversee the construction of a cotton mill and village for Dwight Manufacturing Company but died in June 1896, the result of a work-related injury at the mill. The Nichols family built the library as a memorial to their beloved son, hiring a Boston architect to design the building and oversee its construction in Alabama City. The library was opened to the employees of Dwight Cotton Mill in 1902, making it the first lending library in the state, and in 1973 the Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society purchased the facility to preserve the beauty and use of the historic structure.

Gunn-Bellenger Home



The Victorian-style Gunn-Bellenger Home was built in 1886 by Edward Tracey Hollingsworth, a prominent merchant and banker, for his wife, Julia Parrot, and is officially the second oldest domicile in the city. The house was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Gunn in 1901, and it eventually came under the ownership of their daughter Carolyn Gunn Bellenger, who bequethed the home to the city of Gadsden upon her death in 1990. The house is listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage and the National Register of Historic Places.

First United Methodist Church

The oldest church in Gadsden was founded in 1845 when Gen. D. C. Turrentine organized a union Sunday school that met in a schoolhouse. By 1868, despite post-war austerity, the Gadsden Methodist Episcopal Church was growing rapidly and became a full-time station. In 1870, a tall and narrow sanctuary with a high, tin-covered spire was located on the lot of the present church at the corner of Fifth and Chestnut Streets. The North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church was organized at this location on November 16, 1870.



Noojin Home



In 1887, the Gadsden Land & Improvement Company built the one-hundred-room Bellevue Hotel on the highest point of Lookout Mountain overlooking Gadsden, the state's finest resort hotel at the time of construction and popular destination for visitors of nearby Noccalula Falls. During the Civil War the point was known as "The Cliff" where Confederate soldiers kept watch over the small town of Gadsden. Today, nearby Paseur Park Overlook offers a beautiful panoramic view. After the hotel burned in 1912, B. L. Noojin, Sr. purchased the land and constructed the present home. Noojin was a baseball player, educator, athletics director, and owner of the Noojin Supply Company.

Colonel O.R. Hood Home



The stately Classic Revival home was built in 1904 and was the residence of Colonel Oliver Roland Hood, a Gadsden attorney, civic leader, and one of the three incorporators of the Alabama Power Company in 1906. For thirty-five years Hood was closely associated with W.P. Lay in the development of electric power in Alabama. The home was purchased in 1954 by the Gadsden Woman's Club and is used for the group's monthly meeting, as well as special events. The home is on the Alabama Historical Register and was added to the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior on May 8, 1986.

Turrentine Avenue

Turrentine Avenue was named for one of Gadsden's founding fathers, General Daniel Clower Turrentine, who came to Gadsden in 1842. The avenue was originally the lane leading to Turrentine's 1851 farmhouse. The avenue is known for its architecturally rich collection of houses built between 1891 and 1934. These houses include examples of Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Mission, Spanish Revival, and Tudor Revival.

Nichols Memorial Library photo courtesy of Karen Henricks. All other tour photos courtesy of Danny Crownover.

Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue

In May 2008, Congregation Beth Israel celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first local religious service held in a rented room in the Gadsden National Bank building. The cornerstone of the current synagogue was laid on March 8, 1922 when Grand Marshal Julian Spearman led Masonic dedication services. The popular pastor, Reverend W.R. Rigell of the First Baptist Church, also spoke, and the service was attended by hundreds of local people interested in this growing sub-community of their town. Although the dedication of the Zemurray Social Hall on March 25, 1960, was marred by an attempted fire-bombing, the Congregation Beth Israel has remained committed to both its Jewish heritage and the Gadsden community.



Dwight Mill Village Houses

As part of the construction of Dwight Manufacturing Company in 1895, three grand homes were built on the hill overlooking the cotton mill. They were located on Hillcrest Avenue, soon known by many workers as "Boss Hill." The three homes were for the company doctor, the mill agent and the school superintendent. The mill agent's house in the middle was the largest, a two-story home complete with a gingerbread gazebo attached to the house.



Meeting Sites

Noccalula Falls Park
(pre-meeting)
1500 Noccalula Rd.
Gadsden, AL 35902-0267
(256) 549-4663

Etowah Historical Society
(pre-meeting)
Elliott Community Center
2829 W Meighan Blvd
Gadsden, AL 35904-1717

Gadsden Museum of Art & History
(reception)
515 Broad Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35901
(256) 546-7365

Crosspoint Community Church
(main venue)
2730 Wills Creek Rd
Gadsden, AL 35904-4576
(256) 546-9236

The Gadsden Country Club
(Friday Night Banquet)
1884 Rainbow Drive
Gadsden, AL 35902
(256) 546-0451

Accommodations

Gadsden Inn & Suites
200 Albert Rains Blvd
Gadsden, AL 35901-2500
(256) 543-7240

Mention the AHA to receive a special rate of $51 for a single room and $65 for a double room, plus tax. Reservations must be made by April 1.

Hampton Inn Gadsden
129 River Road
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 546-2337

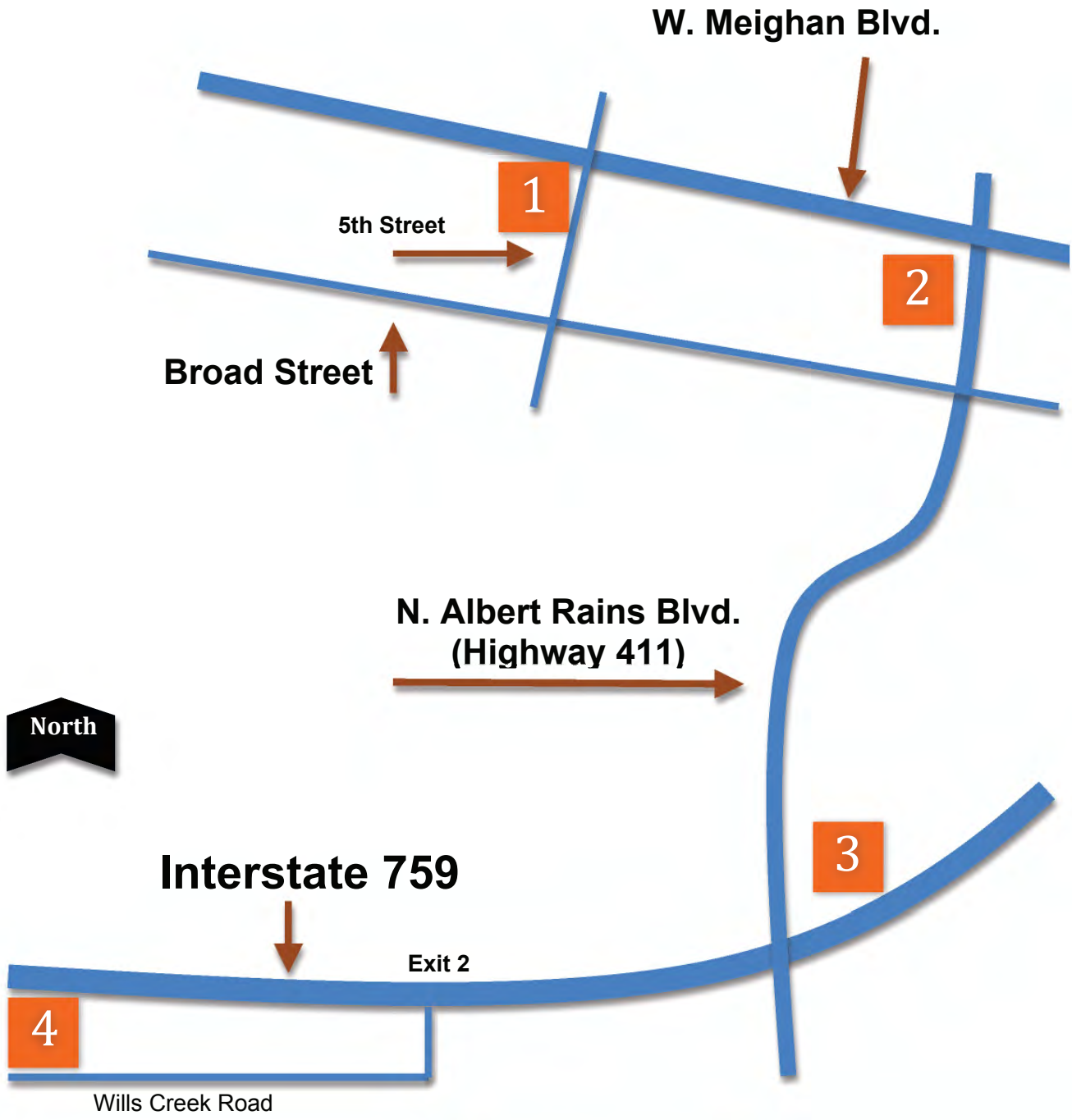
Mention the AHA to receive the special rate of $82 plus tax. Reservations must be made by April 8.



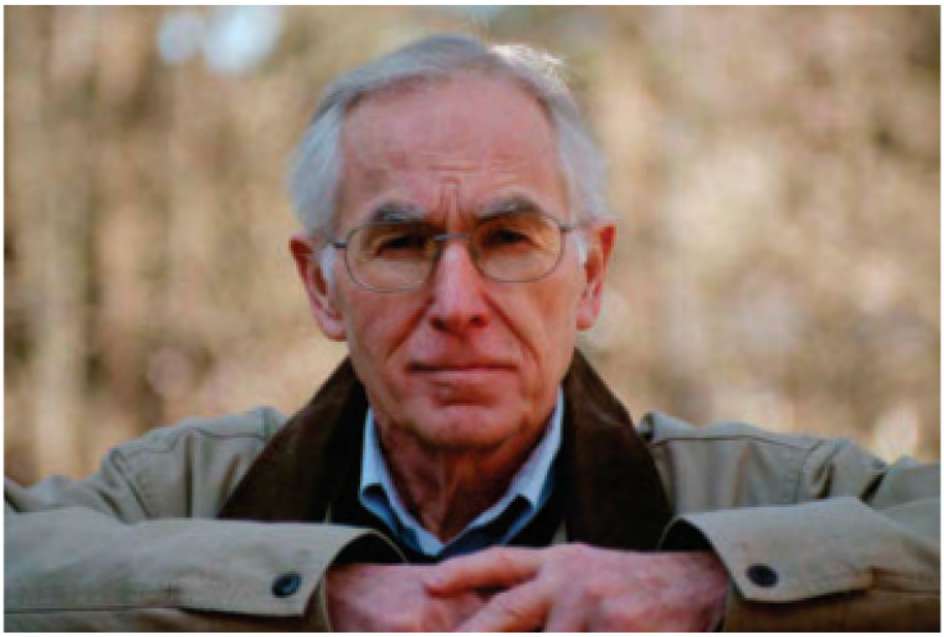
Photo courtesy of the Alabama Tourism Department.

1. Gadsden Museum of Art and History
2. Gadsden Inn and Suites
3. Hampton Inn
4. Crosspoint Community Church

Note: Map is not drawn to scale.



John Ferling to Deliver Keynote Address



The 2010 Annual Awards Banquet of the Alabama Historical Association will feature a keynote address by one of the nation's premier historians of the American Revolution and Early Republic. John Ferling, author of nine books, will discuss how America's first president became a national icon, the subject of his latest book, *The Ascent of George Washington: The Hidden Political Genius of an American Icon (2009).*

John Ferling is the author of biographies of George Washington and John Adams, each of which is being republished by Oxford University Press on President's Day 2010. The books are *The First of Men: A Life of George Washington*, which was originally published in 1988, and *John Adams: A Life*, first published in 1992.

Ferling has also written a biography of Joseph Galloway, who remained loyal to Britain and helped with their war effort, *Setting the World Ablaze*, which contrasts Washington, Adams, and Thomas Jefferson during the American Revolution, and *Adams vs Jefferson,* a history of the pivotal presidential election of 1800. He has written two books on early American warfare: *A Wilderness of Miseries: War and Warriors in Early America* (1982) and *Struggle for a Continent: The Wars of Early America* (1993).

Two of his books have been prize winners. *Almost A Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence* (2007) and *A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic* (2003) won prizes as the best books of the year on the American Revolution.

Ferling has appeared on numerous television documentaries on PBS, the History Channel, and the Learning Channel, and he has appeared on C-Span's "Booknotes" and "In Depth" programs. Ferling taught in Kentucky and Pennsylvania, but spent most of his career at the University of West Georgia near Atlanta. He retired from teaching in 2004, and he and his wife, Carol, live in Carrollton, Georgia.

Books by John Ferling will be available for purchase from NewSouth Books at the annual meeting, and the author will be avaible for signing from 6 – 7 p.m. before the awards banquet.

Join us before the banquet from 6-7 p.m. for music by the Kings of Swing, an award-winning local volunteer band led by Steve Means, former Gadsden mayor and historic preservationist. Enjoy some great Big Band selections, as well their signature rendition of "Stars Fell on Alabama."

Mystery Writer to Speak on Saturday Morning

The annual Saturday breakfast program will feature Alabama native and novelist Mary Saums.

In her youth, Saums worked as a recording engineer in Muscle Shoals on albums by Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Jimmy Buffett and many other fine artists. Her new mystery series, set in northwest Alabama, is about two ladies in their sixties who defend an historical forest using intelligence, wit, and assault rifles.

The first book, *Thistle and Twigg*, was a finalist for the 2008 SIBA Book Award for Fiction, given by the Southern Independent Booksellers Association. The sequel, *Mighty Old Bones,* was a "Top Pick" in *Romantic Times*. Mary has a short story in the upcoming anthology *Delta Blues* which also includes contributors John Grisham and James Lee Burke.

She is an active member of Mystery Writers of America and currently serves on the national board of Sisters In Crime, a non-profit organization for the advancement of women in the mystery field.

For more about Mary's work and interests, visit her website at www.marysaums.com.





Fall Pilgrimage to Lowndesboro Draws Large Crowd

Over 160 AHA members attended the 2009 fall pilgrimage to Lowndesboro on October 10. The program began at the historic CME Church, which boasts the octogan steeple that once graced the state capitol at Cahaba. Presentations by local historian Wayne Taylor, AHA vice-president Dr. Kathryn Braund, and Robyn Harris of the National Park Service were witty, informative and inspiring. AHA past president Dr. Wayne Flynt gave a tribute to Dr. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton, whose memoir was released just prior to the pilgrimage.

Members toured a number of historic homes and structures in Lowndesboro, including Steelehaven, built in 1818, one of the oldest homes in the Black Belt. Holy Ground Battlefield Park, the site of the important 1813 battle between Creek Indians and American forces, and the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, dedicated to the memory of the participants of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March, were also a part of the tour.

"The Lowndesboro pilgrimage allowed our members to reflect on three significant aspects of Alabama history--antebellum architecture, the Creek War, and the civil rights movement," recalled AHA Secretary Mark Wilson, "We are grateful to the Lowndesboro Landmarks Foundation for making the event possible. Their commitment to the preservation and interpretation of state and local history is inspiring."



Walker County

William Brockman Bankhead Home
1874—1940
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

William Brockman Bankhead served Alabama in the U.S. Congress from 1917 until 1940. For the last four years of his life, during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency, he served as the 47th Speaker of the House. He was the son of U.S. Senator John Hollis Bankhead, and the brother of U.S. Senator John Hollis Bankhead, Jr. An 1893 graduate of the University of Alabama, where he played fullback on the school's first football team, Bankhead earned his law degree from Georgetown University. He was the father of noted actress Tallulah Bankhead, who was married in this house on August 31, 1937. Upon Bankhead's death on September 15, 1940, President Roosevelt and a large delegation of dignitaries, including future President Harry S. Truman, attended the funeral and burial in Jasper. [2009: Jasper]

Lauderdale County

Bettie Anne Highway

The home-place of Bettie Anne Springer-Thornton lies 1.6 miles north on the east side of Lauderdale County Road 51. This home was originally a one-room log cabin, built between 1892 and 1894 by Levi Patrick Thornton. Two rooms and a dog-trot were added prior to 1905. The home was razed and rebuilt in 1945, excluding the south room which remained intact. Bettie Anne Springer, daughter of William Marion Springer (1833-1884) and Rutha Jane Oldham (1826-1896), was born November 17, 1859, in Brooksville, Mississippi, and died May 6, 1932.



Bettie Anne was affectionately called "Aunt Bett" by family and friends alike. She donated a portion of property for the construction of the highway, and her son, Samuel Beaver Thornton, donated land for the Old Mt. Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Levi Patrick Thornton, son of William Henry Thornton (1817-1855) and Sarah Rowsey-Burt (1814-1893), was born August 3, 1850, in Lauderdale County, Alabama, and died May 14, 1915. Levi and Bettie Anne were married on February 8, 1876, and had twelve children.

They are buried in the Ingram-Thornton Cemetery in Good Springs (old Thorntontown).
Sponsored by Thornton Family Descendants and Benefactors [2009: Co. Rd. 5 at Co. Rd. 568, Rogersville]

Autauga County

Doster Road Artesian Well House

Prattville is often referred to as "The Fountain City" for the numerous free-flowing artesian

wells found here. A 1933 edition of the Prattville Progress noted that there were more than 400 of these artesian wells in Prattville and its immediate vicinity, some of which supplied the town's water system.

Although many of the wells have been capped, or ceased to flow when relocated, quite a few remain, including several public wells in the Daniel Pratt Historic District.

This one, over which a well house was erected in 2001 through a partnership with the Historic Prattville Redevelopment Authority and the City of Prattville, has long attracted those who enjoy its clear, sweet artesian water. [2009: Doster Rd., Prattville]

Wilson Pickett, Jr.
March 18, 1941 — January 19, 2006
Side 1

A native of Prattville, Wilson Pickett was raised singing gospel in local churches. Upon moving to Detroit as a teenager, he began to blend gospel-style with rhythm and blues, resulting in some of "the deepest, funkiest soul music" to come from the Deep South.



In 1966, he began working with musicians in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and it was there that he cut some of his biggest hits, including "Land of a Thousand Dances," "Mustang Sally" and "Funky Broadway." During his career, he made more than 200 recordings, 50 of which made the rhythm and blues and pop charts. Called "The Wicked Pickett" because of his uninhibited style, raw energy and distinctive sound, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991.
[2009: Prattville]

Colbert County

William Leigh – Founder of Leighton

The town of Leighton was named in honor of the Reverend William Leigh, son and grandson of Revolutionary War veterans. He was born in Amelia County, Virginia, Oct. 4, 1790 and moved to Alabama about 1823. Leigh settled nearby at "Jeffers Cross Roads" and became a large landowner, pioneer merchant, postmaster, and La Grange College trustee. He was a charter member of Leighton Masonic Lodge No. 43 and served as Grand Master of the Alabama Masons (1833-1835). Leigh was a Missionary Baptist preacher for 63 years and served as pastor and leader in the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association. In 1836, he donated land and helped build a brick meeting house in Leighton for joint use by the Masons, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Cumberland Presbyterians, and others.
William Leigh – Founder of Leighton



Side 2

William Leigh was the first postmaster of Leighton (1824-1847) and, with William Gregg, operated a storehouse at the cross roads under the firm name of William Leigh & Company. He ran unsuccessfully for the state legislature on the Whig ticket in 1840. In 1847, Leigh sold his store, 1800-acre plantation, livestock, and 30 slaves and moved to Kentucky. He soon returned to Alabama, living in Moulton a few years before moving to Florence where his wife served as matron at the Florence Synodical College. Leigh died there in Florence, July 31, 1873, and was buried here in the Leigh family graveyard. The Masons erected a monument at his unmarked grave in 1931. The old brick church that he helped build a century earlier was razed about 1948.
Sponsored by the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2009: Co. Rd. 22, Leighton]

Franklin County

Newburg

First known as New Boston when a post office was established here in 1832, by 1834 the community was known as Newburg. The Newburg Masonic Lodge #388 was organized in 1872. Since its completion in 1878, the Lodge hall has been a center for community events, serving as the meeting place for the Masons and other clubs, as well as church, school, and voting precinct.

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church, active since its founding in 1824 by Rev. James Smith, located 1/4 mile east of this site.
Denton Hollow burial site of William Russell (ca. 1745-1825) one mile south. Major Russell, for whom nearby Russellville was named, served with Andrew Jackson during the Creek War and returned to this area to settle after the war. [2009: Hwy. 24, 8 mi. east of Russellville]

Crenshaw County

Sports

The area known as Sports was settled by Jonathan Sport and his son, William, who migrated from South Carolina in 1842. Jonathan and William owned 600 acres of land in the area at one time, farming and operating a grist mill. William's sons John Solomon, William Garmon, Thomas Benjamin, Malachai, Daniel Webster, and Joseph Nathaniel have descendants living in the area in 2009.
Originally called "Piney Woods," Sports first appeared on an official railroad map in 1900. [2009: Hwy. 29, Sports]

Pickens County

Summerville Industrial High School
1937 — 1958

On this site in September 1937, Summerville Industrial High School opened under the leadership of Otis James Brooks, who remained its principal throughout its existence. The new school, which consolidated the smaller schools of Emory Chapel, Wilder's, Nolan, Union Valley, and Good Hope, initially had five teachers and 100 students engaged in general academic studies. In 1939, with vocational agriculture and home economics added to the curriculum, Summerville Industrial High School had 16 teachers teaching 500 students.
The school was named in honor of Hugh S. Summerville who donated the land for the campus.
Sponsored by Summerville/Kirksey Alumni [2009: Co. Rd. 13]

Montgomery County

Alabama State University
The Early Years
Side 1

Founded in 1867, the Lincoln School in Marion, Alabama became the first state-assisted normal school for African Americans in 1874. The school prospered in that location for 13 years, training teachers, preachers, and scholars. Following a racial incident in Marion in 1887 the main building was burned down and the school was moved to Montgomery where it would become the State Normal School for Colored Students. The state reneged on its promise to support the school after the move to Montgomery and suspended its funding for three years, during which period the college held classes in churches and survived largely because of contributions from the black community and northern philanthropies.

Tatum Street
Side 2

For three years, the American Missionary Association (AMA) teachers, President William Burns Paterson (1849-1915), his wife, Margaret (1853-1904), and his deputy, John Beverly (1858-1924), kept the school going. After state funding was restored in 1890, Tatum St. and nearby Hall St. became "faculty row." There, Paterson built a house, a greenhouse, and Rosemont Gardens, which would contribute to the support of the school and his family. Beverly, who would be the school's next president, also built his house on Tatum St. AMA teachers from NY, MA, and VT boarded on the street. [2009: Tatum St., Montgomery]



Historical Markers

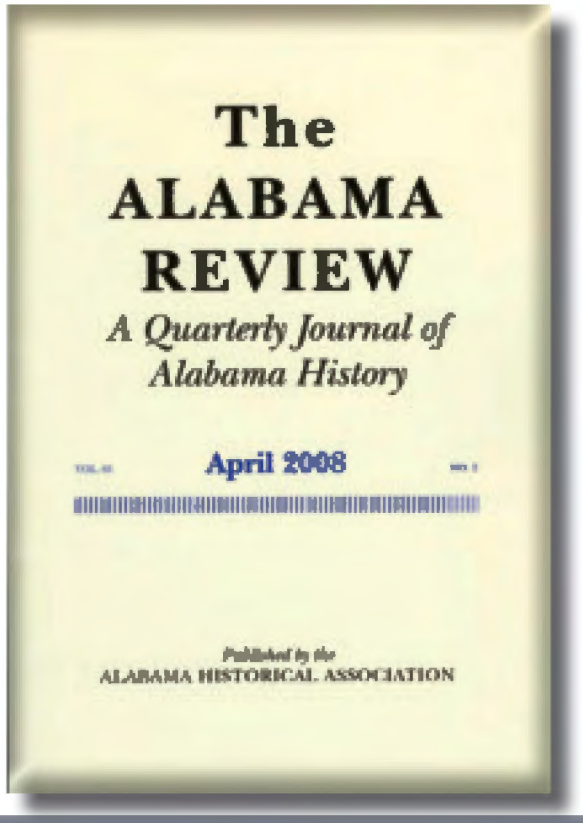
The Alabama Historical Association began sponsoring historical markers as early as 1950, and a standing AHA marker committee was created in 1952. The committee's duties are to encourage and assist interested parties in the purchase and erection of markers for historical sites. The committee also serves to check the accuracy of information carried in the proposed marker texts and to attest to a site's historic importance. The distinctive design of the Alabama Historical Association marker is a double-faced cast aluminum plate with a baked enamel finish. The plate has a deep blue background and the text is portrayed in gold letters. The insignia at the top is the Alabama flag, the St. Andrew's cross, in red, white, and gold.



Jim Bennett

For more information regarding historical markers, please visit www.archives.state.al.us/aha/marker.html.

Make a lasting contribution to Alabama history with a gift to the *Alabama Review* endowment fund.



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Save the Date for the 2010 Annual Pilgrimage

October 23, 2010

Mark your calendars and join us for the Annual Pilgrimage of the Alabama Historical Association.

Saturday, October 23, 2010
Moundville Archaeological Park

Complete information will be available in the fall newsletter.



Photo courtesy of Moundville Archaeological Park.

VOLUME 25
ISSUE 2
FALL 2010

Alabama Historical Association



Fall Pilgrimage
Saturday, October 23
Moundville Archaeological Park

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Cover photos: Courtesy of Moundville Archaeological Park, University of Alabama Museums.

Rattlesnake Disk photo: David Dye, Courtesy of Moundville Archaeological Park, University of Alabama Museums.

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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathryn H. Braund
Auburn University



Our pilgrimage this year will take us to Moundville, a mysterious complex of Mississippian mounds on the Black Warrior River. In addition to exploring the mounds, we will tour the newly renovated and redesigned Jones Archaeological Museum, which showcases significant artifacts, including one of the most famous of all Mississippian objects, the Rattlesnake disk.

While the high-tech museum and earthen mounds are sure to be a hit with people of all ages, for me, the mounds and museum represent much more than a vestige of Alabama's distant past. The archaeologists and anthropologists and ethnohistorians who have developed this site's interpretative features are among our nation's best and brightest scholars.

Their work is multidisciplinary, drawing on archaeology, folklore, ethnobotany, iconography, and a myriad of other specialized fields to interpret the lives of the people who lived in and around the complex. And their work reveals more than an understanding of why those distant peoples built mounds and carved hand-eye symbols. Moundville provides striking evidence that the best scholarship is a collaborative effort that draws from a variety of sources and disciplines to make complex subjects understandable and accessible.

For some, archaeology and history seem to be very distinct fields. At Moundville, we will see ample proof that they are not. We are all after the same thing, and one of my goals as AHA President is to showcase the various ways that Alabama archaeology is an integral part of the pursuit of history. Moundville's story—like all great history—is compelling, dynamic, intellectually rigorous, and most importantly, accessible and engaging.

Moundville takes us to a time before this was Alabama—a time when peoples culturally different and distinct from Europeans related to and managed this land and its resources. And this points to another theme I hope will be obvious in the coming year: our history is multi-cultural and multi-faceted.

Soon, our state will commemorate a triad of events that has been dubbed "Becoming Alabama": the bicentennial of the Creek Indian War, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, and the fiftieth anniversary of many events associated with the Civil Rights Movement. These events—like Moundville—point to diversity and multiculturalism and the need for innovative scholarly approaches to complex topics that resonate with the general public. Public history, in all its diverse forms, will play an important role in educating the current generation about our shared past and shaping the way the next generation regards, reveres, and reinvents it.

Our association, the oldest and largest historical organization in the state, will continue to play a leading role in supporting scholarship as Alabamians commemorate "Becoming Alabama" at a variety of venues over the next few years. As we move into the twenty-first century, I think taking the time to learn the many lessons of Moundville is as good a way as any to start the journey.

MOUNDVILLE



Bill Bomar, Director, Moundville Archaeological Park

It is altogether unknown to us what could have induced the Indians to raise such a heap of earth in this place . . . It is reasonable to suppose, however, that they were to serve some important purpose in those days, as they were public works, and would have required the united labour and attention of a whole nation.
--William Bartram commenting on Indian mounds in Georgia, Travels*, 1775*

Around A.D. 900, along river valleys of southeastern North America, a distinct Native American culture began to emerge. With complex religious beliefs, beautiful art, extensive trade networks, construction of great public works and large towns, this culture would mark the climax of perhaps 20,000 years of prehistoric cultural development in North America. Archaeologists call this rich and unique culture Mississippian. Moundville, in west central Alabama, was one of the greatest of these Mississippian centers.

American Indians had previously lived in the Southeast for thousands of years, mostly as nomadic hunters and gatherers. With the development of full-scale floodplain agriculture in the eighth to tenth centuries, however, more permanent settlements began to be established, some with several thousand people. The emergence of Mississippian culture is marked most visibly by the construction of large earthen, flat-topped pyramids that served as platforms for civic and ceremonial buildings and the homes of the nobility. Mississippians also developed complex social and political systems, with clear and extreme social stratification. Mississippian political and ceremonial centers, like Moundville, served as capitals for chiefdoms that spanned up and down rivers and tributaries, encompassing many smaller villages as part of the larger political and economic system. Besides moundbuilding, social ranking, and complex political systems, other Mississippian cultural traits include the appearance of shell-tempered pottery, use of bows and arrows, long distance trade of raw materials and finished goods, and increased territoriality and warfare.

Moundville, located in west central Alabama on the Black Warrior River, is internationally recognized by



Photos courtesy of Moundville Archaeological Park, University of Alabama Museums.

Mound B is 60 feet tall and was probably the location of the chief's residence.

scholars as one of North America's most significant archaeological sites. In the 13th century, around 3,000 Mississippian people lived in this powerful and carefully planned capital town, an additional 7,000 occupying a 75-mile strip along Alabama's Black Warrior River forming the core of the Moundville chiefdom. At Moundville, they constructed 28 earthen mounds that served as building platforms for civic and ceremonial structures and the homes of nobles. At its peak, Moundville can be considered America's largest city north of Mexico.

The Moundville society existed from about AD 1050 to 1500, reaching its peak in the 13th century. The site contains at least two dozen constructed earthen mounds, the tallest sixty feet in height. Most of the mounds are neatly arranged around a large rectangular plaza where archaeology has revealed virtually no structural remains. Based on later ethnographic evidence, this open plaza could have been used for recreational games such as stickball, or it could have served as the gathering place for large religious events, such as the Green Corn Ceremony. Hundreds of houses were clustered around the mounds that formed this rectangular perimeter around the plaza. Beyond this perimeter was a bastioned palisade surrounding the site on three sides spanning a total distance of approximately one mile. Many small villages in the chiefdom were active participants in the economy, politics, and religion of Moundville. More distant villages, within perhaps 100 miles of Moundville, may have been strongly connected to the capital by trade or even by kinship, but were likely too distant to be considered active participants in the affairs of the chiefdom.



Dr. Walter B. Jones, State Geologist of Alabama, was primarily responsible for the purchase and preservation of the site in the 1930s. His efforts led to the establishment of a CCC camp at Moundville and the construction of the park's museum, which bears his family's name.



Left: Excavations at the site of the Jones Museum, ca. 1937.

Below: Dedication of the museum at Moundville, 1939.





Temporary roofs protect human burial areas during the construction of the museum.

Moundville Indians produced spectacular art, much of which was religiously inspired. Archaeologists have discovered stunning figurines, pendants, ceremonial axes, and smoking pipes carved out of stone; painted and incised pottery; effigy pots; incised shell gorgets; incised stone disks; and embossed copper pendants and gorgets. While prehistoric Native Americans never smelted metal, they became quite adept at hammering and embossing copper. Many other types of art vanished from the archaeological record, but ethnographic information from other Mississippian sites at the time of early European contact helps substantiate that they were masters of woodcarving, basketry, and painting. The level of skill necessary to produce Mississippian art indicates that there was craft specialization among individuals. Indeed, Moundville archaeologists who study the ceramics intensely suggest that they can recognize the work of specific artists based on slight stylistic variations.

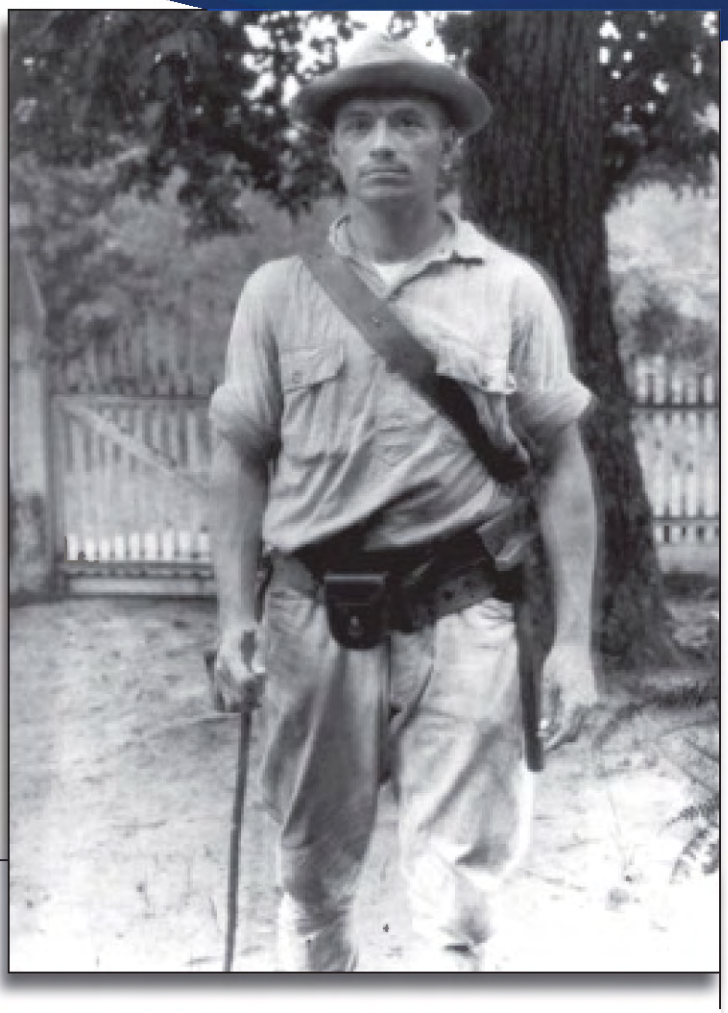
It is believed that one way that the Mississippian nobility held their power was by controlling trade of exotic raw materials and finished works of art. Objects made of copper, mica, galena, and marine shell have been found at Mississippian sites hundreds, and even thousands of miles from their source. Much copper from the Great Lakes area, marine shell from southern Florida, and quartz from the Appalachian Mountains have been found at Moundville. The trade of prestige goods helped maintain political ties and provided nobles with symbols of power. Because many of these objects also had religious importance, possession of them may have fostered the allegiance of members of



CCC cadet working on museum construction.

the chiefdom.

Moundville art is adorned with complex symbols that provide a glimpse into the religious beliefs of these ancient people. Perhaps the most common Moundville symbol is the mysterious "hand and eye." Several archaeologists and folklorists have recently theorized that the "eye" in the palm of the hand is actually a portal into the afterlife. Some Native American stories explain that after people die, they leap off of this earth and enter the "Path of Souls." Each of the points of light in the Milky Way are the dead making their way into the afterlife, sometimes facing various challenges, on this Path of Souls. Several stories have been identified that refer to entering the Path of Souls through the hand of the Creator, or in one case, an ancient warrior. By testing this folklore against what is known about Moundville from archaeology, several scholars have theorized that Moundville may have been considered to be the portal into the afterlife. We



Dr. Walter B. Jones



The park became a popular destination and site for events following its opening in 1939.

know from archaeology that even after Moundville was almost completely abandoned, people continued to bring their dead, by the hundreds, to be buried at the site.

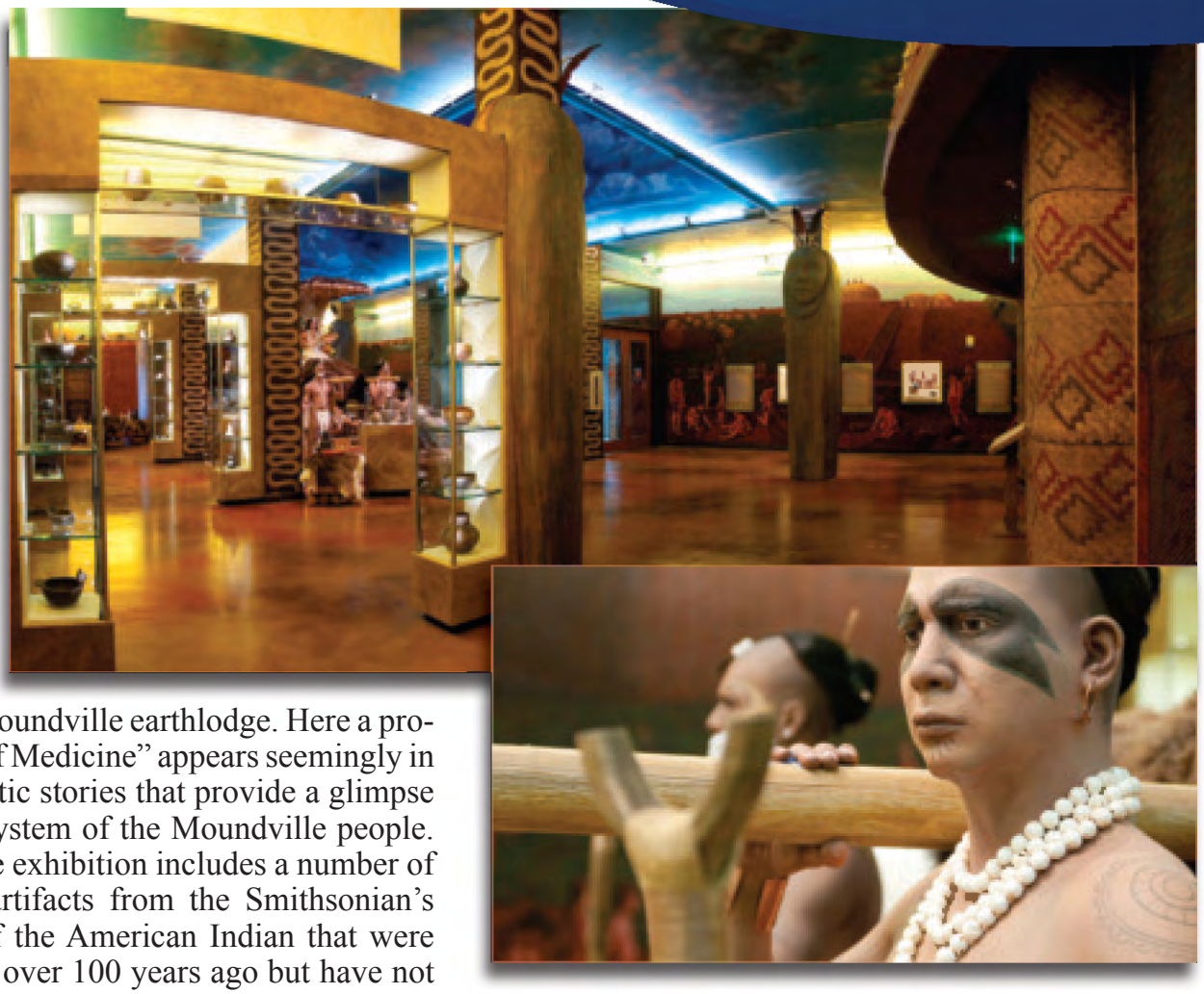
The University of Alabama now operates the Moundville site as a 326 acre educational park with a museum and interpretive exhibits. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the Jones Archaeological Museum at Moundville, a historic structure in its own right, in 1939. Besides developing the site as a park, the CCC conducted large scale excavations in the 1930s, unearthing an incredible collection of artifacts. The park has just completed a $5 million renovation and expansion of the museum which not only displays many of the treasures found at the site, but brings the culture of the Moundville people to life through engaging, immersive exhibits.



A new addition on the rear of the museum houses the park's gift shop and café and provides a spectacular view of the site.

Nearly ten years ago, with funding from a National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant, the park brought together some of the nation's most respected archaeologists, Native American representatives, a folklorist, museum educators, and exhibit designers to develop a plan for a new permanent exhibit in the Moundville museum. The exhibits had barely changed since 1971, so decades of research and new interpretations were missing from the museum. Typical of older archaeological museums, previous exhibits at Moundville focused on basic lifeways topics such as pottery making, weapons, and categories of artifact styles. No real story was told and the more complex themes such as Mississippian politics, religion, art, warfare, and diplomacy were mostly ignored. The exhibit planning team recognized that while lifeways topics are an important part of the story for any culture, including the Moundville people, these are not the traits that define the richness of the Moundville culture. It was decided that in order to present a more complete picture of how the Moundville people lived, the exhibit would have to move beyond the limited archaeological record to also rely on other disciplines such as history, ethnography, and folklore.

The exhibit planning team set two overarching goals: first to tell the Moundville story in a dramatic themed setting that immerses the visitor in the sights, sounds, and textures of ancient Moundville, and second, to display the unique Moundville artifacts in ways that reflect the sensibilities and sophistication of the people who created them. The resulting new exhibition, "Lost Realm of the Black Warrior" opened May 15, 2010.



It is a stunning display of several hundred outstanding Moundville artifacts presented in a rich, multisensory environment. Exhibits include recreated Moundville scenes with lifelike human figures made from lifecasts of living Southeastern Indians. Visitors also experience a multimedia special effects presentation in a recreation of a Moundville earthlodge. Here a projection of a "Maker of Medicine" appears seemingly in thin air to tell authentic stories that provide a glimpse into the rich belief system of the Moundville people. Most importantly, the exhibition includes a number of spectacular loaned artifacts from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian that were found at Moundville over 100 years ago but have not been back in Alabama since they were found in 1906. The most famous example is the stone Moundville Duck Bowl, one of the most important prehistoric pieces of art ever discovered in the United States.

Over a century of research at Moundville has revealed a wealth of information. New methods and scientific tests have resulted in new interpretations. As a result, questions are now being formulated that could not have been imagined several decades ago. Only six percent of the Moundville site has been excavated. While future research will provide additional information, we can be certain that it will also raise more questions about the lives of these ancient Alabamians.

Bill Bomar is director of Moundville Archaeological Park.



New exhibits feature over 250 artifacts, recreated scenes, and a multimedia presentation.

MOUNDVILLE ARCHAEOLOGIST TO DISCUSS LATEST FINDINGS AT FALL PILGRIMAGE

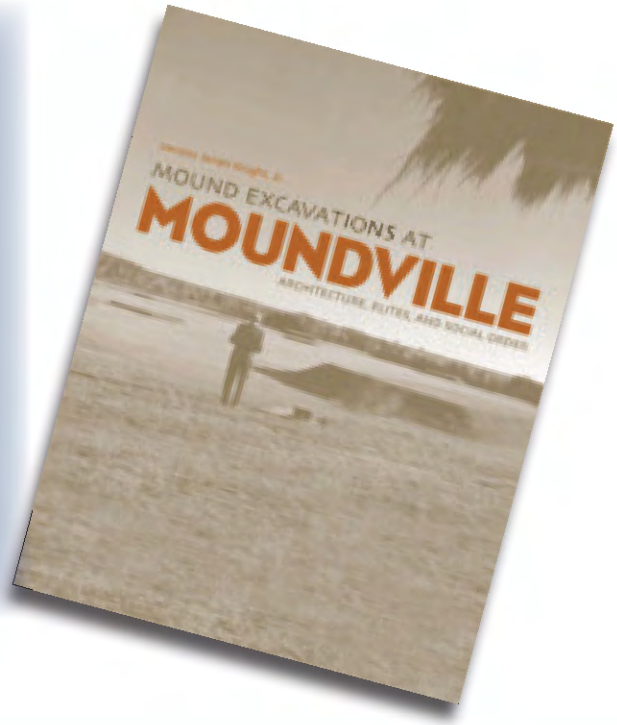


The 2010 Pilgrimage program will feature a presentation by Vernon James Knight, Jr., Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alabama and author of *Mound Excavations at Moundville: Architecture, Elites, and Social Order*, recently released by the University of Alabama Press. The publisher's editorial board chose the book for its prestigious Anne B. and James B. McMillan Prize, which recognizes the most deserving publication in Alabama or Southern history or culture.

Knight, one of the nation's preeminent experts on the Mississisippian period, will discuss the latest archaeological findings at Moundville, as well as the social and cultural complexities of one of the largest and most complex of the mound sites of pre-contact North America.

Knight is a native of Sylacauga, Alabama. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Florida in 1981 and joined the faculty of the University of Alabama in 1988. He has done field research in the southeastern United States and has a current project in eastern Cuba. His research interests are in prehistoric "social archaeology," and in the period of early European-Indian contact. In addition to his latest book on Moundville, Knight is the author or editor of numerous books and articles, including *The Search for Mabila: The Decisive Battle between Hernando de Soto and Chief Tascalusa*.

"Moundville is one of the most important ancient sites in North America, and this book brings our understanding of it to an entirely new level. Knight's research is absolutely first-rate. Apart from what the book teaches us about Moundville's history, it also describes mound-excavation methods that are innovative and will be emulated by archaeologists for years to come. Simply put, this work is destined to become a landmark of North American archaeology."—Vincas P. Steponaitis, author of Ceramics, Chronology, and Community Patterns: An Archaeological Study at Moundville *and coeditor of* Archaeology of the Moundville Chiefdom



2010 FALL PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 23, 2010
Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama

8:30 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales

10:00 a.m. Program

11:30 a.m. Lunch on site

12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tours of Moundville Archaeological Park and Jones Archaeological Museum

Register for the pilgrimage program using the tear-out form found in this newsletter. Please postmark your registration by October 11, 2010.

Pilgrimage to Include Pies

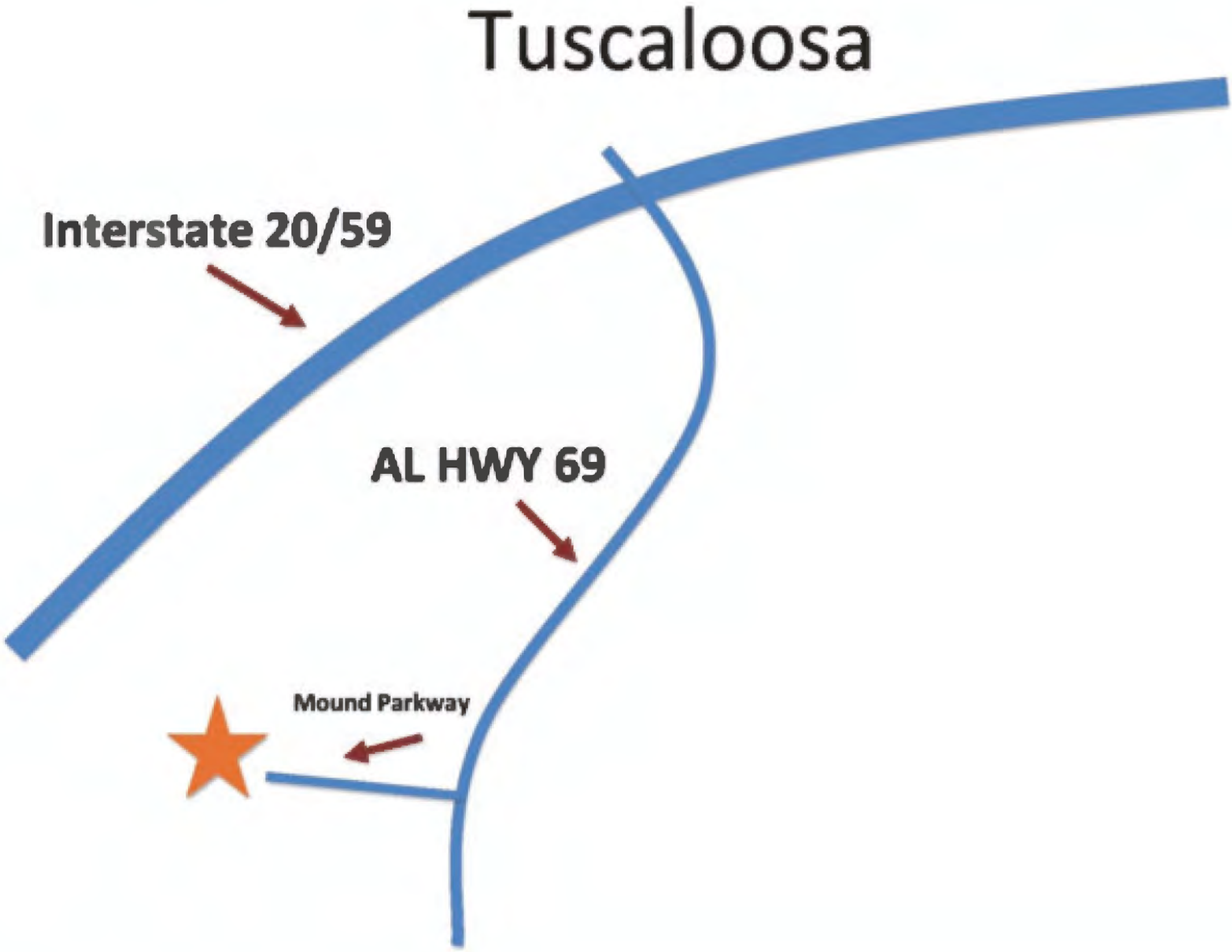
AHA Pilgrims will enjoy a delicious lunch from one of the state's most unique restaurants: the PieLab of Greensboro. Featured in The Birmingham News, Tuscaloosa News, Good Magazine*, and nominated for a prestigious James Beard Foundation Award for Outstanding Restaurant Design, the restaurant—an experimental pie shop and design studio—will prepare lunch and dessert pies using their made-from-scratch recipes.*



RaMell Ross

Moundville Archaeological Park
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474-6413

The Park is located 13 miles south of Tuscaloosa on AL Hwy. 69.
From I-20/59, take exit 71A and proceed 12 miles.



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Courtyard by Marriott
4115 Courtney Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
(205) 750-8384

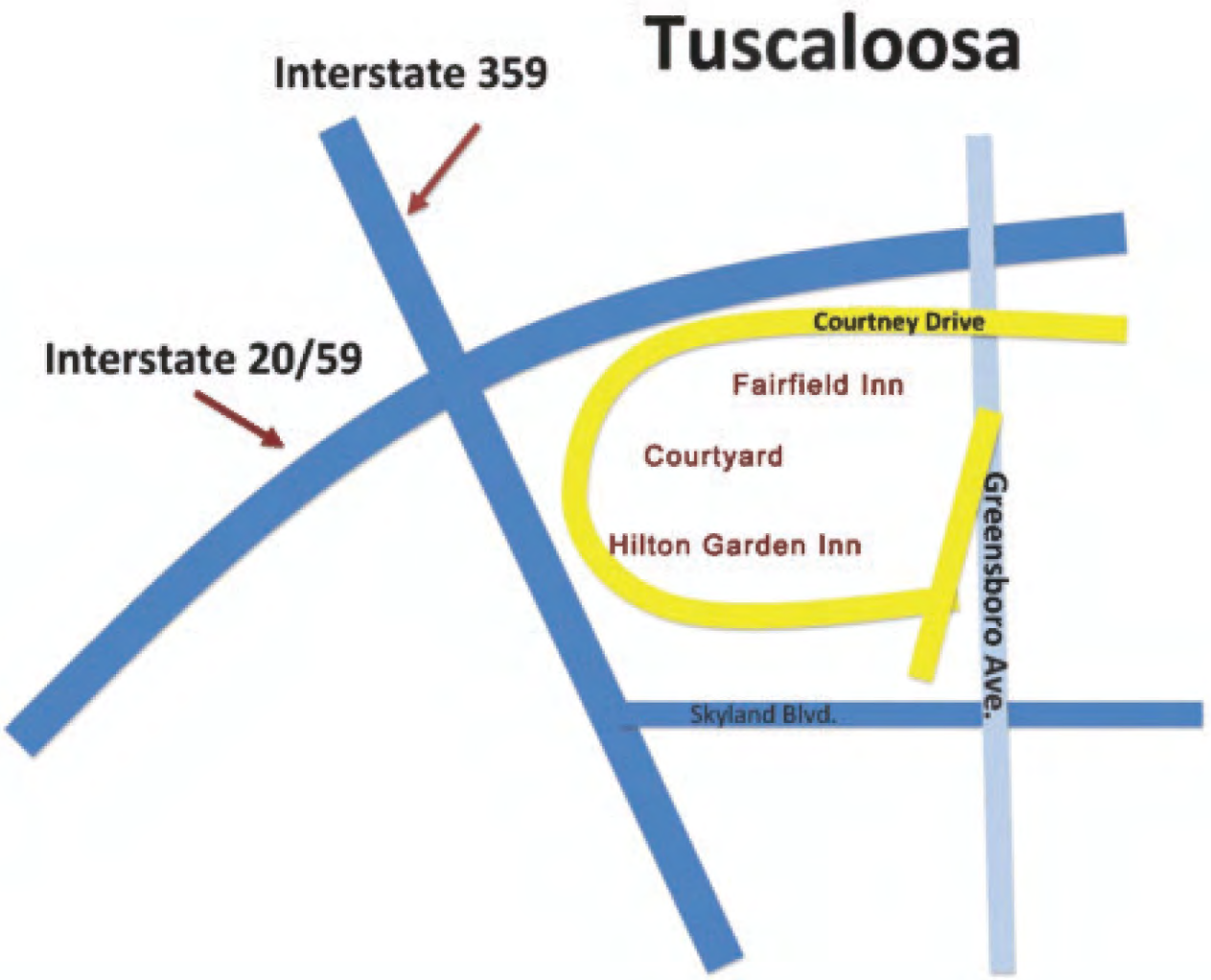
Call and mention the AHA by October 1st and receive a special rate of $89 plus tax.

Fairfield Inn by Marriott
4101 Courtney Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
(205) 366-0900

Call and mention the AHA by October 1st and receive a special rate of $79 plus tax.

Hilton Garden Inn
800 Hollywood Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
(205) 722-0360

Call and mention the AHA by October 1st and receive a special rate of $99 plus tax.



CALL FOR PAPERS

64th Annual Meeting on Mobile Bay's Eastern Shore April 14-16, 2011

The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers to be given at its 64th annual meeting on Mobile Bay's Eastern Shore on April 14-16, 2011. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, and local historians who share an interest in the history of Alabama.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a 20-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a CV or resume including author's e-mail address, telephone number, postal address, and academic affiliation (if any). Electronic submissions are preferred.

Presenters will be required to register for the conference and be members of the AHA by the time of the meeting. The committee gives preference to authors who have not presented papers at the annual meeting within the last three years. Please send your submissions and any questions you may have to the program committee chair:

Dr. Kari Frederickson
Department of History
Box 870212
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
(205) 348-1862
kfrederi@as.ua.edu

Proposals will be accepted until October 1, 2010.

Committee Seeks Nominations for the 2011 Virginia V. Hamilton Award

The Alabama Historical Association's Virginia V. Hamilton Award honors contributions to Alabama history that promote an appreciation of and better understanding of Alabama history among the general public. The award is named in honor of preeminent Alabama historian Dr. Virginia Van der Veer Hamilton and past recipients include the following:

1991	Michael Thomason
1993	Ed Bridges
1996	Robert Stewart
1999	Hardy Jackson
2001	Mary Jane McDaniel and Lee Allen
2003	Leah Rawls Atkins
2005	Wayne Flynt
2007	B. B. Comer Memorial Library, Sylacauga
2009	Jay Lamar

Letters of nomination (not to exceed two pages) should be sent to the following committee chair by January 15, 2011:

Dr. Dan J. Puckett
Troy University
136 Catoma Street, Room 110
Montgomery, AL 36104
dpuckett45442@troy.edu
(334) 241-5478

GRADUATE STUDENTS INVITED TO APPLY FOR CLINTON JACKSON AND EVELYN COLEY RESEARCH GRANT

The Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant from the AHA supports graduate student research with a $500 award given every other year. Any graduate student conducting research on an Alabama-related topic may apply, and the next award will be given at the annual meeting on April 15, 2011.

Applications should include a statement of the student's intended plan of work, a letter of reference from the chairman of the department in which the student is enrolled, and/or a letter of reference from the student's major professor.

Please submit nominations to committee chair Mark Palmer at Alabama Department of Archives and History , P.O. Box 300100, Montgomery AL 36130-0100 or by email at mark.palmer@archives.alabama.gov.

Applications must be received by the committee chair by February 28, 2011.



Jennifer Newman, previous award recipient, presents on her research at the 2009 annual meeting in Tuscaloosa.

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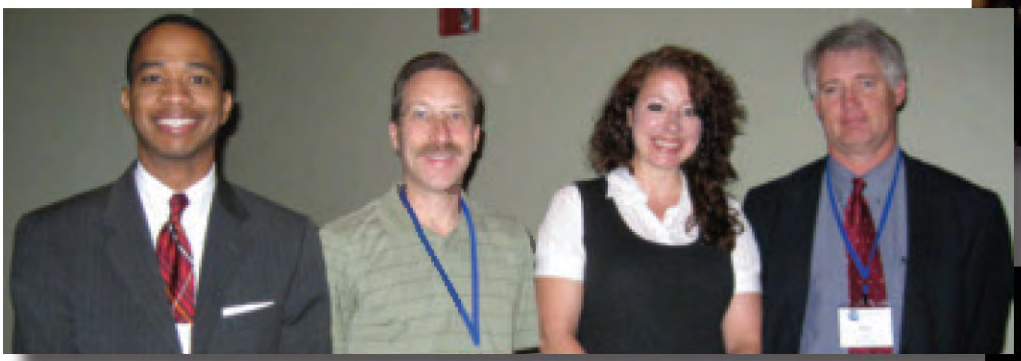
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2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The sixty-third annual meeting held in Gadsden on April 15-17 was a huge success, thanks to the leadership of the Etowah Historical Society and the hospitality of countless individuals.



Gary Burton delivers the annual presidential address.



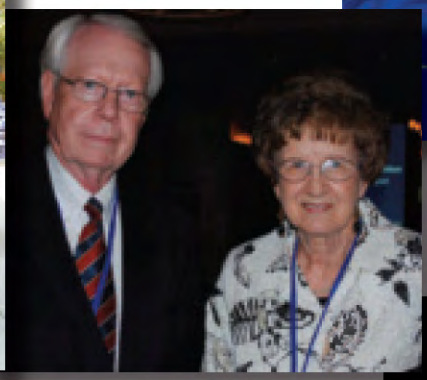
Bertis English, Bruce Gourley, Patricia Hoskins, Ken Noe



Hazel Oliver, attendee of the 1958 meeting in Gadsden, and Molly Cheekwood.



AHA past presidents from left to right: Harriett Amos Doss, Chriss Doss, Anne Feathers, Gary Burton, Ken Noe, Joyce Smith, Jim Lee, Lee Allen, Marlene Rikard, Wayne Flynt, Kathryn Braund, Leah Atkins



Jim Bennett and Ruth Kuykendall



Aaron Trehub and Bert Hitchcock



Hassan Jeffries, winner of the Coley Book Award, and Marty Olliff



Ruthie Pitts and Frazine Taylor

Photos by Danny Crownover, Laura Hill, Louis Loveman, Steve Murray and Mark Wilson

AHA DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

by Marty Olliff and Robert Burroughs

In her textbook, *On Doing Local History*, Carol Kammen wrote that "prior to 1976, local historical societies . . . membership was restricted by habit to local elites . . . and to the elderly—or at least those over the age of fifty." We found this intriguing and wondered if the same held true today. So we did what academics always do—we searched the literature. Finding nothing, we asked the National Council on Public History and the American Association for State and Local History if they knew of any statistical studies that answered our questions. Again, we were unsuccessful.

Obviously, we had to roll up our sleeves and do our own research, which led the 2009 AHA Board of Directors to approve our survey to find out who made up the membership of the AHA. Our method was simple enough—we devised a sixteen-question survey that asked about occupation, marital status, family income, gender, race, education, community size, AHA membership type, length of time as a member and as an Alabama resident, and satisfaction with the Association. We also encouraged comments. The AHA Executive Committee vetted the questions, then the Troy University Institutional Review Board approved our research design to ensure responders' anonymity.

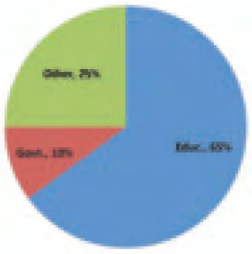
To test the validity and usability of the initial questions and mechanisms for protecting your privacy, we conducted a preliminary survey of twenty-nine AHA Board of Directors and Officers in March and April 2010. Twenty of the twenty-nine responded for a return rate of approximately seventy percent.

Beginning in May 2010, with financial support from the Troy University Faculty Development Committee, we sent the survey to one-quarter of the AHA membership selected at random. Returns are still arriving and as of this writing we have not begun to analyze the results, but we would like to report on what we discovered about the AHA Board and officer corps.

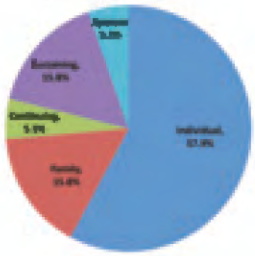
Below is a sample of the preliminary survey's results, reported in percentages. We will make a longer report of our general survey findings in the future.

Robert Burroughs is an associate professor of sociology and Marty Olliff is an archivist and associate professor of history, both at Troy University Dothan Campus.

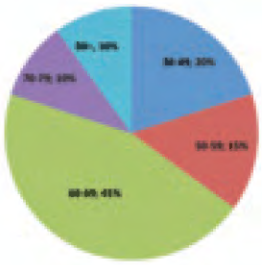
Occupation: *(N = 20)*



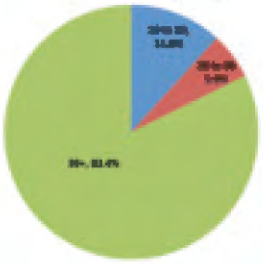
Membership Type: (N = 20)



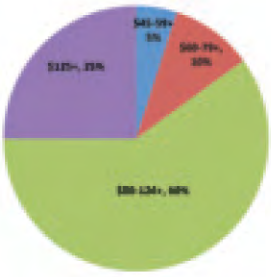
Age: (N = 20)



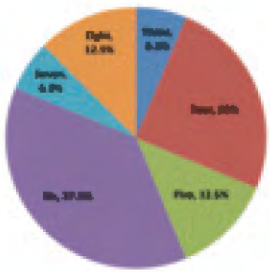
Length of Residence in AL (years): (N = 17)



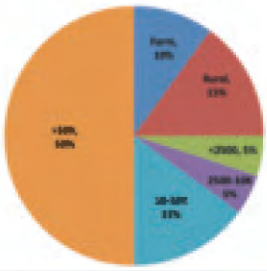
Income (Annual, x $1000): (N = 20)



Generations in AL: (N = 16)



Community Size: (N = 20)



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALABAMA REVIEW

by Bill Trimble

This report marks the completion of my second year as editor of *The Alabama Review*—and a total of a dozen years as editor of quarterly historical journals. I can say without reservation that, while the job can be time-consuming and challenging, the experience has been rewarding for me personally and professionally. As always, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with the *Review* and I look forward to serving the Association as editor in the years to come.

I'm sure it will come as no surprise to you that the process of getting out four issues per year, on time, is far from a one-person operation. I am, therefore, as always, grateful for the effort that Carey Cauthen, our associate editor, puts into each issue. I can't think of anyone more capable, more thorough, and more professional. The same goes for our graduate assistant, Tommy Brown, who has the unglamorous responsibility for tracking down book reviewers, checking out citations, dates, sources, and all the other details that result in a quality, on-time publication.

We received 13 manuscript articles in 2009, which is down from the number of submissions in 2008. Frankly, even though we have a healthy backlog of manuscripts accepted and awaiting publication, we need more people to submit manuscripts to ensure quality articles in the future. If you have an idea for an article, or have a manuscript that's been sitting on your desk for a while, let us know and send it to us. We're here to work with you.

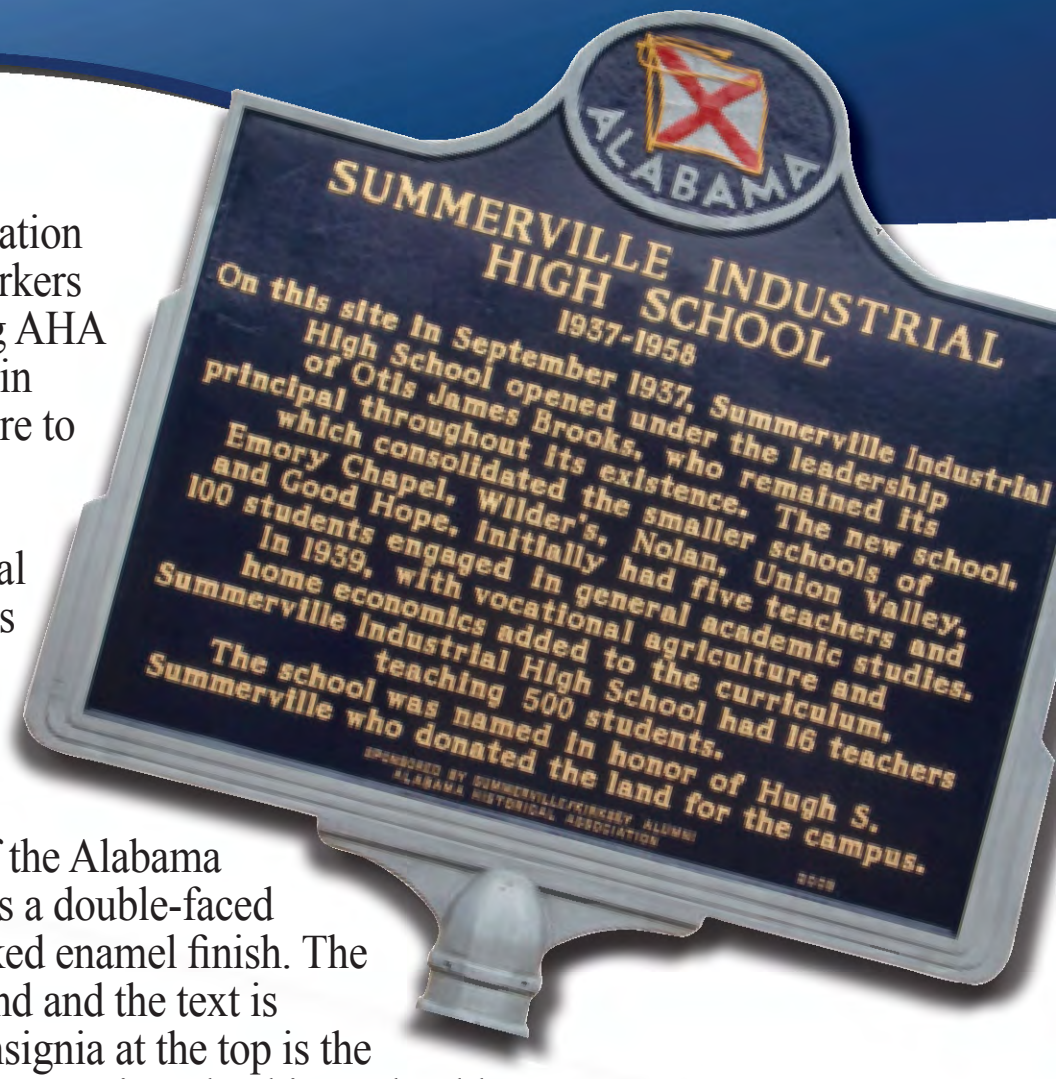
Joining the *Review's* Editorial Board last year were Drs. Bertis English of Alabama State University and Kari Fredrickson of the University of Alabama. Dr. David Alsobrook of the Museum of Mobile and George Rable of the University of Alabama kindly agreed to remain on the board for second terms. Without their expertise, as well as that of our many "outside" referees, we might still have a journal, but it would not be up to the scholarly standards we all take for granted.

We have a new Memorandum of Agreement between the AHA and Auburn University that renews our contract for the *Review* for another five years. Many thanks to Auburn, especially to the History Department and its chair Charles Israel, for their support of the *Review*, which now will now extend for a total of 20 years to 2015.

As part of the new Memorandum of Agreement, the AHA doubled its honorarium from $4,000 per year to $8,000 per year. Once more, thanks to state representative Mike Hubbard we also have a commitment for another year of state funding, although as this report goes to press we aren't sure how much that will be reduced from last year's allotment.

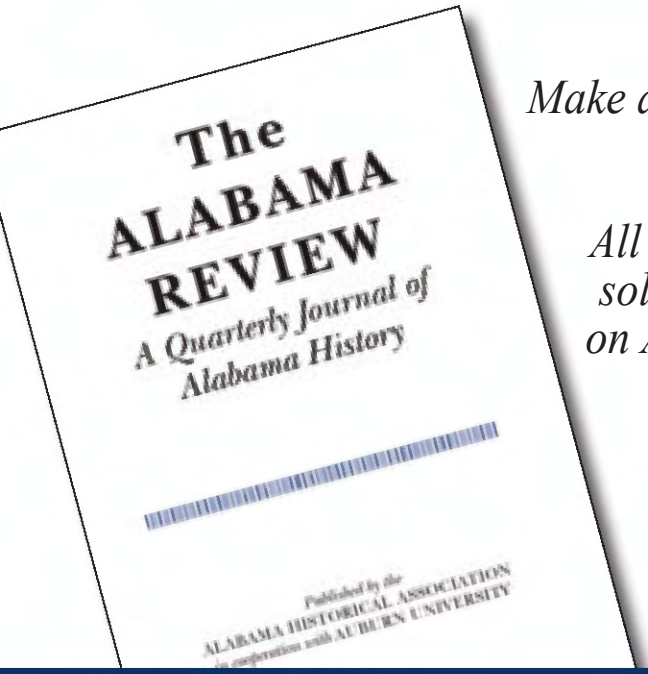
Congratulations to William Warren Rogers Jr., who won the Association's Milo B. Howard Jr. Award for the most outstanding article to appear in the *Review* over the past two years. His "'For the Destruction of Radicalism': A Reconstruction Case Study," which explores the complex post-Civil War politics of county seat location in Marengo County, was published in the July 2009 issue.

We're in the process of putting together a theme issue of the *Review* marking the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Ken Noe of Auburn University has kindly volunteered to edit the issue, which will be out in April of next year. We'll follow that with another special issue in 2012 commemorating the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Creek War, both of which played formative roles in early Alabama history. We hope you enjoy them.



The Alabama Historical Association began sponsoring historical markers as early as 1950, and a standing AHA marker committee was created in 1952. The committee's duties are to encourage and assist interested parties in the purchase and erection of markers for historical sites. The committee also serves to check the accuracy of information carried in the proposed marker texts and to attest to a site's historic importance. The distinctive design of the Alabama Historical Association marker is a double-faced case aluminum plate with a baked enamel finish. The plate has a deep blue background and the text is portrayed in gold letters. The insignia at the top is the Alabama flag, the St. Andrew's cross, in red, white and gold.

For more information regarding historical markers, please visit www.alabamahistory.net



Make a lasting contribution to Alabama history with a gift to the Alabama Review endowment fund.

All contributions are tax-deductible and will ensure a solid financial future for our state's quarterly journal on Alabama history. Designate your contribution to the "Alabama Review Endowment" and mail to:

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Make Plans to Attend the 64th Annual Meeting on Mobile Bay's Eastern Shore

The 2011 annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association will be held April 14-16. Join us as we follow in the footsteps of naturalist William Bartram, sit in the shade of Andrew Jackson's famous Oak tree, and shadow archaeologists as they uncover the remains of Old Mobile. Keynote speakers include two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning biologist E. O. Wilson and master chef and documentarian Scott Peacock, both Alabama natives.

Visit www.alabamahistory.net for hotel information and look for details in the spring newsletter.

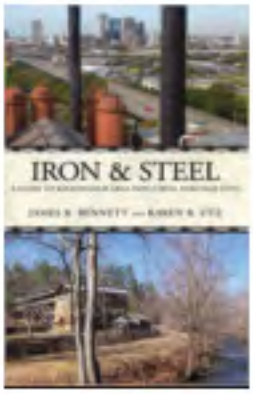


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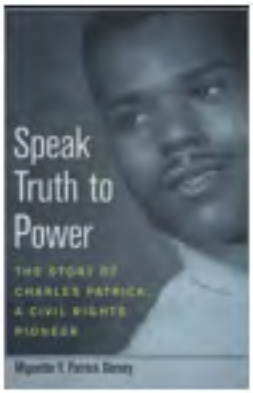
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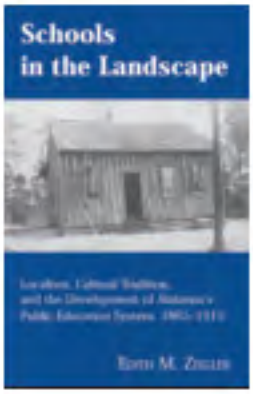
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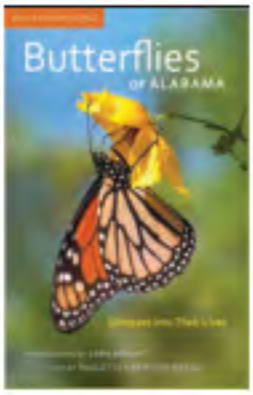
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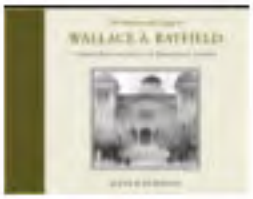


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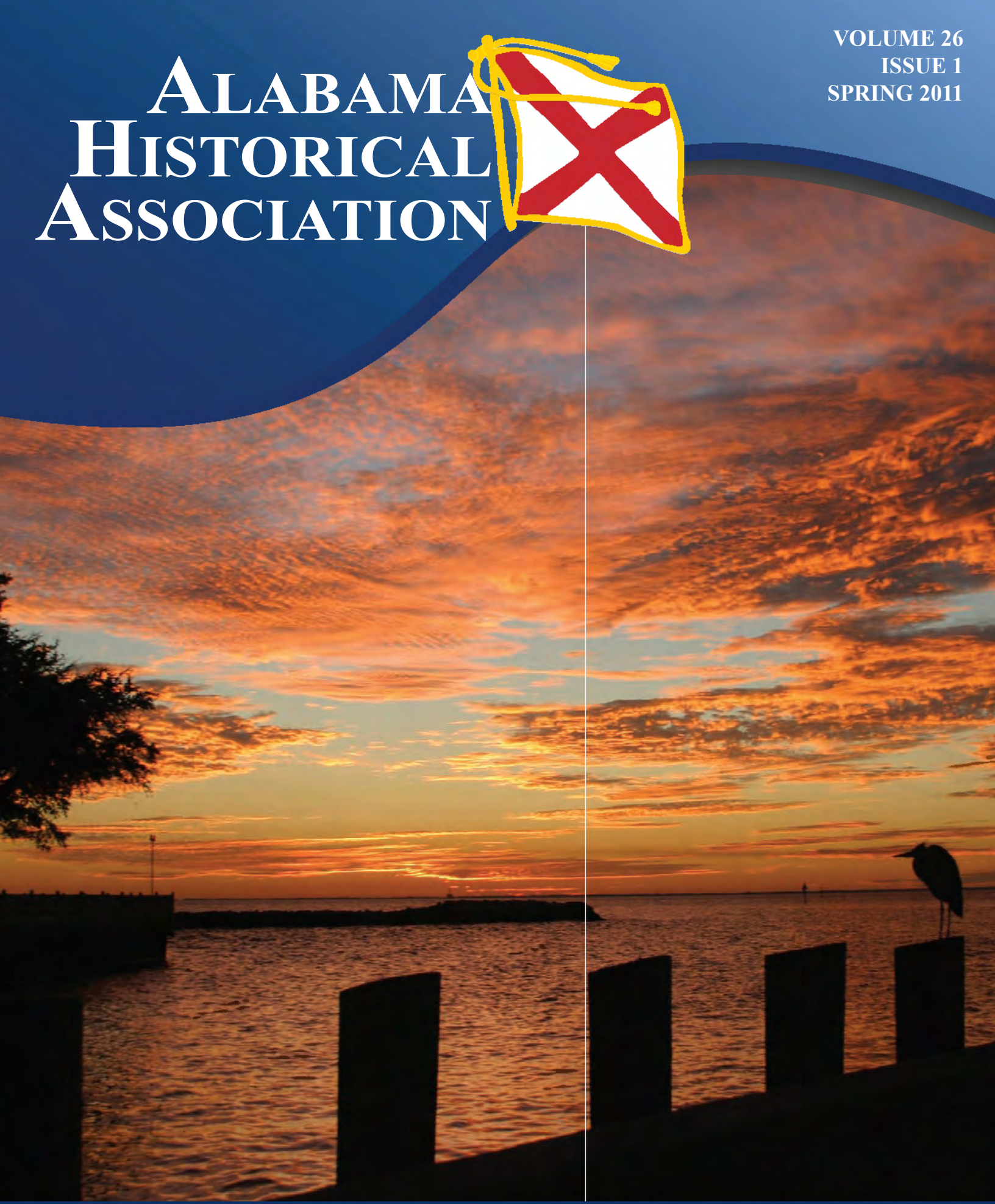
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VOLUME 26
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2011

Alabama Historical Association



Join us for the 67th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association!
April 14-16, 2011 ~ Mobile Bay's Eastern Shore

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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathryn H. Braund
Auburn University



As we have planned the upcoming AHA meeting—which has been a joy—I, along with the AHA Executive Committee, have grappled with another problem that has been anything but joyful. And that is a funding crisis regarding the *Alabama Review*. As most of you know, the AHA pays a small percentage of the costs involved in producing the journal. Our direct expenses include printing, postage, a modest honorarium to the editorial office, and a few incidentals.

Auburn University's history department donates space for the editorial office and provides the editor a one-course release from teaching duties to compensate for his time spent working on the *Review*. The rest of the funding, which amounts to approximately $50,000 in direct costs, has come from the university's appropriation in the state education budget.

After successive years of cuts in the state budget, those funds were not available in fiscal year 2011. The loss of funds has left the history department without resources to cover the costs of the associate editor and a graduate research assistant beyond this April. For years, the AHA leadership has grappled with the funding issue. An endowment fund established to support the journal has grown to only $56,000—not nearly enough to generate earnings sufficient for operations. Tapping the principal of this fund to continue publication is an unattractive option, and it would buy us only one year before we reach this same sad spot again.

The time has come for the members of the Alabama Historical Association to face the fact that we must make substantial changes in the funding model for our journal. At the January meeting of the AHA Executive Committee, members engaged in an intense conversation about the future of the *Review*. Most spoke fervently about the journal as a benefit of membership. And there is no question it is that. It provides timely reviews of books related to Alabama history and is the state's only peer-reviewed journal providing high-quality essays on all aspects of the state's history.

Current editor Bill Trimble observes that a peer-reviewed journal is the "gold standard" for historical scholarship. Any manuscript submitted is subjected to a critical reading by knowledgeable scholars in the field, who offer comments and suggestions for strengthening the paper. This "peer" critique, along with the expert editorial feedback and fact-checking provided by the editorial staff, combines to produce stronger articles and more readable ones as well. There is a world of difference between an unedited paper and one that has been vetted through a rigorous scholarly process, is strongly documented with citations, fact-checked, and appropriately edited.

As former editor Jeff Jakeman notes, the *Review* and the process through which scholarly papers become published articles "plays an important and unique role in encouraging scholars to study Alabama history." Jeff's comments are worth quoting in full:

> Many of the articles that are published in the journal are ultimately expanded into books, but publishing in a journal gives scholars the opportunity to present their work sooner and obtain valuable feedback and criticism that will strengthen subsequent work. Many of the *AR*'s authors are junior scholars just beginning their careers studying Alabama history. Offering them an opportunity to publish in a refereed journal helps train and encourage the rising generation of historians studying Alabama history. The *AR* offers young scholars the opportunity to have their research critiqued by scholars, rigorously fact-checked, and carefully edited for writing style—building on the principles and experience of graduate school.
>
> In an age of instant opinions offered online with little research or thought, it is increasingly important to protect and nurture a publishing venue such as the *AR*, which holds authors to a high standard of accuracy, accurate citation, and clarity of expression.

There is no doubt that the *Alabama Review* is a tremendous benefit to members—and to the larger goals of the organization. I'd like to suggest something else. I would like to suggest that far from being a mere "benefit" of membership, the *Alabama Review* is our RESPONSIBILITY. As the state's oldest historical association, we have an obligation to do everything in our power to preserve the *Alabama Review*. For our core mission—to promote and diffuse knowledge about our state's history—is intimately linked to scholarly publishing.

Having reached this crossroads, the Executive Committee took two actions at its January meeting. It authorized the use of up to $25,000 from the Association's general operating funds to complete the 2011 volume. It also asked me to appoint a task force to consider ways to provide both short-term and long-term funding solutions to the perennial problem of funding our journal, with a preliminary report due at the June meeting of the full Board of Directors. We welcome your ideas—and your support—as we move forward.

Early Baldwin County History: Significant, Rich and Diverse

by John Jackson, Baldwin County
Department of Archives and History

Baldwin County, Alabama, founded in 1809, boasts a heritage steeped in the tradition of numerous cultures. Native peoples as well as Spanish, French, and British settlers all left their marks on this rich land, ultimately creating a unique culture that fused Native American ways with European technology. The allure of the region, then as now, is its unique biodiversity, rich farmland, and the strategic value of the waterways of the delta. The relationships that grew among these varied groups, whether contentious or affable, shaped the future of Baldwin County. No county in the Southeast can boast a richer heritage and no people can be prouder of how that heritage has been maintained.

Evidence of early Native American occupation is found throughout the county in the distribution of shell middens along many of the waterways of the delta, the bay, and along the Gulf. A shell midden is a mound of discarded oyster, mussel or clam shells left in one area over a long period of time. Archaeologists have been able to study these remains to determine the amount of dietary meat in each oyster, the possible food-processing methods used, and the length of time that the site was used by the inhabitants. In addition to shell middens, the Mississippian mound builders left behind the most noteworthy evidence of their lives in the mounds found in Baldwin County. These flat-topped pyramidal mounds, used extensively for temples and houses, are best exemplified on Mound Island at the Bottle Creek mound site. The location, administered by the Alabama Historical Commission, contains eighteen earthen mounds, the highest standing 45 feet tall. According to the South Alabama Center for Archaeological Studies, the Mississippian site (AD 1200 to 1450) is the largest of its kind on the north central Gulf Coast.

Later, as the arrival of Europeans signaled a change in lifestyle for many of the native inhabitants of North America, the Creek Indians came to dominate the area that included Baldwin County. Their dominance was short-lived, however, as first the French, and later English, Spanish, and Americans migrated into the area. Indeed, the Creek presence in Baldwin County was almost always in conjunction



Photo by Joni Plomp

with that of the European. The French entered Mobile Bay in 1699. The Spanish and the British claimed the region at various times during the 16th through the 19th centuries. American settlers migrated into the area in the late 18th century, coming on the heels of the American Revolution.

Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda first explored the Alabama Gulf Coast in 1519 for the Spanish government. He reported details of the coast and of Mobile Bay, noting several "Indian villages" along the banks of the Alabama River. Hernando de Soto is thought to have passed through the region on his quest for wealth in 1540, yet did nothing to advance Spanish colonization. The results of de Soto's entrada were catastrophic for the indigenous population. A loathing for the Europeans among the Indians grew as a result of the brutal encounters between de Soto's men and the local tribes and made the Indians very apprehensive of any subsequent relationship with Europeans. Ever determined to establish themselves in North America, the Spanish returned in 1559 with an expedition commanded Don Tristan de Luna, which incorporated 500 soldiers and

more than 1,000 settlers including women and children. Unfortunately for the Spanish, the attempt was short-lived as the colonists lost many of their supplies in a storm and eventually resorted to surviving on the boiled leather from their armor as their only food source. The colonists abandoned the northeast corner of Mobile Bay. It was not until 1630 that the Spanish made a triumphal return to Baldwin with the settlement headed by the Suarez brothers (Jose, Rosa, and Francisco). The brothers settled in Perdido and gradually extended their claims beyond what is now the Lillian community. The land grants issued by the Spanish government to the Suarez family remain the oldest title to land in Baldwin County.

By the time the permanent Europeans settlers arrived along the Gulf Coast, the native people had united into tribes such as the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Alabamu, and Creeks. The French landed in Mobile Bay in February 1699 under the charge of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville. From there the French expanded their claim as far east as Perdido Bay due to the inability of the Spanish to mount an effective protest. While most of the French attention was placed on settlement of the western shore of the Bay, a presence along the Eastern Shore was also maintained as a destination to escape the summer heat and the associated illnesses that befell Mobile each year. Lands in Baldwin County were also essential in the supply of food and naval stores for the growing French enclave in Mobile.

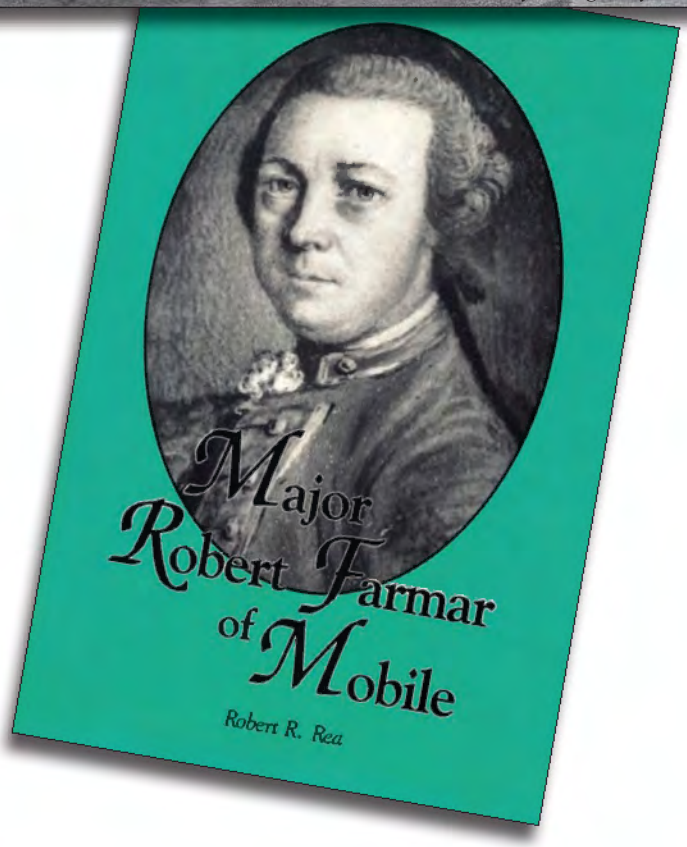
Following d'Iberville's direction, the French remained very aware of the importance of a workable relationship between them and the Indians for safety and for trade. As a result, the French cultivated a bond with the Choctaw and the Creek but failed to convince the Alabamu of their good intensions. So even though the French departed from the heavy-handed approach of their predecessors, they never gained the complete trust of the Gulf Coast Indians.

Throughout the 18th century, French settlers established themselves along the expanse of the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. Around 1700 Jacques Cook founded a community in Bon Secour named for the Montreal Cathedral Notre Dame de Bon-Secour. In 1715 Joseph Simon de la Pointe settled a parcel along the mouth of Weeks Bay, and later Augustin Rochan carved out a plantation in the Spanish Fort area.

The close of the French and Indian War in 1763 brought an end to French control in Baldwin and elsewhere in North America and ushered in the reign of the British. Many of the French settlers who had carved out homes in the wilds of Baldwin remained as the British took over. Even though they controlled Mobile, the English political emphasis was focused on Pensacola, where the capital of British West Florida was located. Major Robert Farmar entrenched British military and political control in Mobile with immediate enhancements to the viability of the French Fort Charlotte. Mobile remained an important element in the control of the region, especially in the realm of the complex political and economic affairs associated with local Indian tribes, particularly the Choctaw and Chickasaw. And, as such, Farmar remained integral in strengthening the English presence in the region.



Engraving of a painting depicting the massacre at Fort Mims on August 30, 1913. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery.



Farmar, like his French counterparts before him, was intrigued with the potential for land acquisition in Baldwin County. And much like many other officers along the fron-

tier of North America, he saw an opportunity to make a place for himself and his family in his post-military life. In the end he purchased property in the future Stockton community which he named Farm Hall, and there built a large home on the Tensaw River.

The British realized their ability to develop their new colony of West Florida depended on maintaining good relations with the Creek and Choctaw Indians. The key to success with the Choctaw lay with establishing a British trade out of Mobile and continued peace with the Creeks as well. In a 1763 memorandum to his officers, Farmar directed:

"You are to use your utmost endeavours to Cultivate, and preserve a good understanding with the Indians, obliging all that Trade with them, to deal Justly, take care that they give full, and just weight, and measure, such as shall attempt in any respect to defraud them, seize their persons, and Effects, and after satisfying the Indians (which I take for granted will be the injured party) oblige the aggressors to leave the Country, that by these acts of Strict Justice, the Indians may receive a good impression of the English Nation, which their late Masters have endeavoured by every artifice to figure to them in the worst Light."



The American Revolution wrought even more change on the Alabama Gulf Coast as the British grudgingly left their Mobile and Pensacola strongholds to the Spanish. The end of the war also steered more American settlers toward Baldwin. During the eight-year conflict, numerous British Tories made their way into the region to escape the conflict along the eastern seaboard and to hopefully find a more welcoming environment among the people of the Mobile Bay region. Ultimately, they witnessed increasing tensions between white settlers and the Indians due to the rising white population in the area.

Violent upheaval in 1813 signaled a turning point in the development of Baldwin County. Militarized bands of Creek Indians (Red Sticks) raided a makeshift fort (Fort Mims) in North Baldwin County and killed nearly two hundred fifty of the settlers that had sought safety at the Mims farm. That bloody affair in August 1813 condemned all Creeks and a way of life that had spanned generations. Driven by the desire for vengeance, whites in the territory called on Andrew Jackson to remove the Indian threat. He did so, and with the Battle at Horseshoe Bend, the dominance of the Native American, at least in the southeastern United States, was over. Jackson extended his mandate as he marched on New Orleans to face the British, who sought to regain their foothold in North America. With his striking victory over the British in January 1815, the United States could lay claim to the lands of West Florida that remained in the feeble control of the Spanish. Thus, by 1819 the vast lands of the Florida panhandle and beyond were officially turned over to the United States in the Adams-Onis Treaty, incorporating a large portion of the future Baldwin County into the Union.

Settlement in Baldwin County along the rivers and Mobile Bay came first with the prehistoric Indians that built mounds, hunted the swamps and nurtured the fields of the upper river delta. The arrival of Europeans forever changed the life of the indigenous population and provided the social underpinning for those who chose to settle there. While many current residents of the county can trace their heritage to a second wave of immigration that took place in the late 19th and early 20th century, the foundation of Baldwin County was laid by the efforts of these early settlers, both Indian and European. The synthesis of these varied peoples makes Baldwin County unique and its heritage rich.

Map (left) by Walter Overton (1892-1976), a long-time Fairhope resident and artist who compiled an amazing artistic history of early Baldwin County and the Gulf Coast through syndicated sketches which were printed in numerous newspapers, his water-color paintings, Gulf States Tour Guides, Southland Sketch calendars and short stories, both published and unpublished. Courtesy of the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History, Bay Minette, Alabama.

TOUR THE MOBILE DELTA BY BOAT





Come early and join other AHA members and the captain of the *Pelican* for a Mobile Bay Delta tour. The two-hour eco-safari will meander through mostly open-river forested wetland habitats composed of marsh grasses, Cypress/Gum swamp and dryer sand hill habitats surrounded by low wetland swamps.

Two-hour tours will launch from 5 Rivers Center at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14.

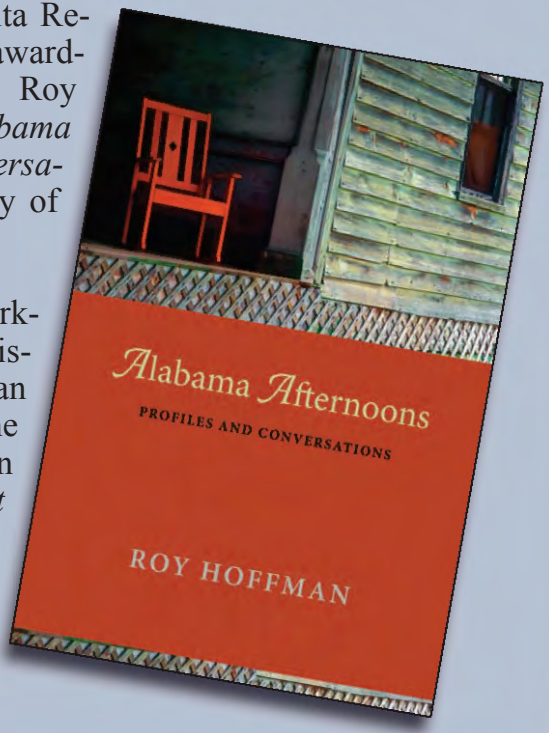
Cost: $20.00 per person

Limited to 46 participants total! Secure your space on the registration form found in this newsletter.



ENJOY AN ALABAMA AFTERNOON WITH AUTHOR ROY HOFFMAN

Join us at 5 p.m. before the 6 p.m. reception at the fabulous 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center for a book talk by award-winning journalist and novelist Roy Hoffman on his new book *Alabama Afternoons: Profiles and Conversations*, published by the University of Alabama Press.



Alabama Afternoons is a collection of portraits of many remarkable Alabamians, including Mary Ward Brown, William Christenberry, Kathryn Tucker Windham, Winston Groom, Vivian Malone, and James Hood. Roy Hoffman is a staff writer for the *Mobile Press-Register* and author of the nonfiction collection *Back Home: Journeys through Mobile* and the novels *Almost Family*, winner of the Lillian Smith Award for fiction, and *Chicken Dreaming Corn*, a BookSense pick.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 14

1:00 PM **Pre-meeting Delta Boat Tours**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

3:00 PM **Pre-meeting Delta Boat Tours**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

5:00 PM **An Alabama Afternoon with Author Roy Hoffman**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

6:00 PM **Reception**, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

Friday, April 15

8:30 AM **Registration**, Daphne United Methodist Church

9:30 AM **General Session**, Daphne United Methodist Church

10:45 AM **Concurrent Sessions**, Daphne United Methodist Church

Session A: Old and New Interpretations of Alabama's Early History

"The First Interpretations of Alabama's Early History," Johanna Shields, University of Alabama at Huntsville

"New Interpretations of Alabama's Early History," Daniel Dupre, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

"Whither the South's Frontier History?" Thomas Hagood, University of Georgia

Session B: Industry, Commerce, and Labor

"The Eclectic Industrialism of Antebellum Baldwin County, Alabama," Angela Lakwete, Auburn University

"'When Two Greeks Meet…': Greek Immigrants and the Food Service Industry in Birmingham, Alabama, 1896-1965," Angela Jill Cooley, University of Alabama,

"Rethinking the Great 1908 Alabama Coal Strike: Race, Religion, Economics, Violence, and Community," Glenn Feldman, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Session C: Civil Rights

"Mobile and the Boswell Amendment," Scotty Kirkland, University of South Alabama

"Segregation and Sterilization: Reassessing Alabama's Eugenic Past," James M. Hurst, University of Alabama at Birmingham

"Persevering in the Face of Adversity: The Response and Repair of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church," Faye Doss, Samford University

NOON **Lunch**, Daphne United Methodist Church

1:00 PM **Afternoon Tours**
Option A: Bus Excursion to Old Mobile Archaeological Site
Option B: Local Historical Sites (on your own; maps available at registration)

6:00 PM **Cash Bar and Reception**, The Grand Hotel, Point Clear

7:00 PM **Annual Banquet**, The Grand Hotel
Keynote address by Dr. E. O. Wilson

Saturday, April 16

8:00 AM **Breakfast**, Daphne United Methodist Church
Presentation by master chef and foodways documentarian Scott Peacock

9:00 AM **Registration**, Daphne United Methodist Church

9:45 AM **General Session**

10:30 AM **Concurrent Sessions**

Session A: War and Memory

"A Confused Identity: The Fourth Alabama's Delay in Reconciling its Military Reputation to the Nation," Patrick Cecil, University of Alabama

"'A Badly Arranged Bouquet of Blue Roses': William March, Company K, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," Steven Trout, Fort Hayes State University

"'Their Names Liveth for Evermore': Remembering the Great War in Mobile," Jacob Laurence, Museum of Mobile

Session B: War and Identity

"Hobson as Hero: The Creation of American Identity During the Spanish-American War," Ben Osborne, Vestavia Public Schools

"'Disgraced Monsters' or Soldiers of Virtue: Southern Women, Military Service, and Contested Meanings of 'Womanhood' in the Cold War Era," Joseph Pearson, University of Alabama

"'We Must Conquer No Matter What it Costs:' Alabama Women and Confederate Identity During the American Civil War," Jennifer Trevino, Troy University

Session C: Cultural Identities

"New Archeological Research at Colonial Fort Tombecbee," Richard Brownlee and Ashley Dumas, University of West Alabama

"Academic Eclecticism and Southern Identity: George B. Rogers and the Spanish Colonial Revival in Mobile," Cartledge Blackwell, Mobile Historic Development Commission

"Mines and Mining: Coal Mining in Jefferson County, Alabama, 1880-1950: A Multimedia Perspective," Staci Simon Glover, Brookside Museum

11:45 AM **Annual Luncheon**, Daphne United Methodist Church
Presidential Address by Dr. Kathryn Holland Braund

FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOUR OPTIONS TO INCLUDE EXCURSION TO OLD MOBILE

On Friday, April 15, AHA members will have the opportunity to board buses for travel to the archaeological site of Old Mobile (travel time 60 minutes) for a tour with archaeological experts. Special thanks to Dr. Greg Waselkov, director of the University of South Alabama's Center for Archaeological Studies, for making this special opportunity available. Buses will depart from Daphne United Methodist Church at 12:30 p.m. and will return to the same location by 5 p.m.

Old Mobile, capital of French Louisiana (1702-1711), has been undergoing excavation since 1989. The sites of eight buildings—out of more than fifty found—have been partially or completely excavated, with the recovery of thousands of artifacts.

Excavations always follow the same scientific procedure. After the overlying few inches of soil have been dug, and carefully screened through 1/16-inch mesh, any differences in soil color and texture are carefully mapped and photographed. These stains are the best clues for the appearance of the houses, made mostly of wood and clay, that once stood here

Some of the French buildings, like excavated Structures 1 and 5, had foundation sills that were layed directly on the ground (poteaux-sur-sole style). Others were built with supporting wall posts placed in a trench (poteaux-en-terre). Surrounding this house was a palisade fence in another trench. Perhaps this small house belonged to a soldier in the garrison of Fort Louis, which stood not too far away.

French colonists drew two maps of the community, and both depict personal land claims and plans for future town development. One drawn in 1704-1705 shows the fort and the seminary priest's house in great detail, but we must depend on archaeology for information on buildings elsewhere in town.

Today the site of Old Mobile falls within the boundaries of Axis Alabama, on the property of Accordis, DuPont, and the Alabama Power Company. DuPont has taken the lead in site preservation by donating an archaeological easement to the Archaeological Conservancy, a national nonprofit conservation organization.





Images courtesy of the Center for Archaeological Studies, University of South Alabama

THE OLD METHODIST CHURCH MUSEUM OF DAPHNE

Built in 1858 on land donated by Captain William and Elizabeth Howard, this church is one of only two remaining antebellum churches and is the second-oldest church building in Baldwin County. The design is typical of the day: Greek Revival style with country adaptations. It was constructed from heart pine logs with handmade wooden pegs. The interior features the original pews and random-width floorboards evidence of the crude lumber-cutting methods of the era.





In the cemetery, grave markers date from 1847 and include two brothers killed in the last two weeks of the Civil War at Spanish Fort, four casualties from the ironclad *Osage*, the beloved slaves Becky Ann and Snake, and the son of the first Native American to graduate from West Point, David Moniac. Many gravesites are unidentified because their wooden markers decayed with time. Tradition holds that on these grounds there is a mass grave of Union military men, brought ashore after a torpedo hit their freighter.



In 1924, Peter McAdam enclosed his family plot with clay posts (a Celtic tradition); some of these posts remain intact. From 1870 to 1939, this church was known as the Daphne Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Then in 1939, when the Methodist congregation reunited and forgot their pre-Civil War differences, the name was changed to the Daphne Methodist Church. Later on, a museum was born.

Photos and text courtesy of Ken Balme and Lucy Cunningham, Old Daphne Museum

THE JEWEL OF MALBIS

When Jason Malbis, a former Greek Orthodox monk, immigrated to America and bought thousands of acres in Baldwin County in 1906, he founded Malbis plantation. Among his last wishes, before his death in 1942, was that a church be built. With white marble from Greece, icons and paintings rendered by Greek artists, and beautiful, rich colors, Presentation Theotokos — known informally as Malbis Memorial Church — opened in 1965, and is now available for guided tours.



The church was a dream — and request — of Jason Malbis. Malbis, whose birth name was Antonios Markopoulos, had been a Greek Orthodox monk at Mega Spileo, a monastery high on a mountain near Kalavrita, Greece. But Markopoulos decided to leave the monastery. He cut his beard, traveled to America and took the name Jason Malbis. When he arrived in Baldwin County in 1906, according to "The Faith of Jason Malbis," a booklet at the church, he pronounced, "The Almighty has revealed to me that this is the land for which we are looking." With a friend, William Papageorge, Malbis bought thousands of acres of land for $5 an acre.

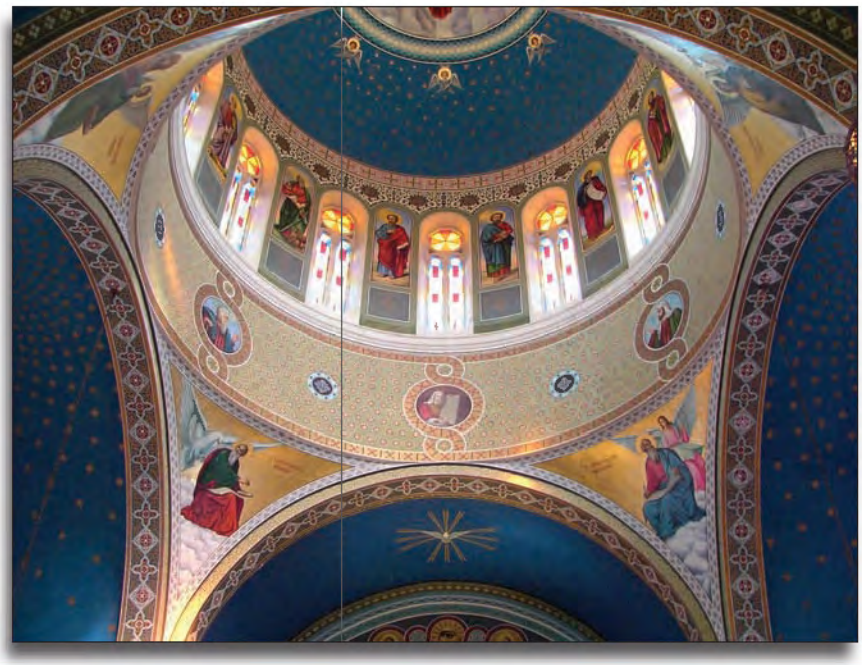
At Malbis plantation, which became a growing community, there were, among other endeavors, a flower nursery, an ice plant and a bakery that expanded into Mobile and became the former Malbis Bakery. In 1939, Malbis returned to Greece, unable to leave when World War II broke out. He fell ill and died in Greece in 1942.

One of Malbis's last wishes, written in a letter sent by a friend, was "my desire that you build a church near the cemetery and close to the living quarters ... for we must have a place to come together and praise Almighty God." For five years builders labored to build the glorious Presentation Theotokos, which became informally known as Malbis Memorial Church.

Central to the construction were three artisans from Greece. The church's ties to the old country are evident everywhere, inspired by a Greek Orthodox church in Athens. The paintings inside the church of the apostles, saints and religious scenes are vivid and bright. The ceiling of the church is deep blue with stars painted on it — the firmament.

Jason Malbis' yearning for a place "to praise Almighty God" was realized in another way: His remains were brought from Greece and interred in the sanctuary. As spring begins to unfold, the church rests serene and spectacular, set back among magnolias and pines.

These excerpts of Roy Hoffman's feature article (March 13, 2010) reprinted by permission of The Mobile Press Register. *To read the article in its entirety, with accompanying photos, go to the link: http://blog.al.com/living-press-register/2010/03/the_jewel_of_malbis.htm*



VILLAGE POINT PARK PRESERVES EASTERN SHORE HISTORY

The historic Village Point in Daphne is as fascinating today as it was in 1939 when Federal Writers' Project author Francois Ludgere Diard captured the beauty and history of the place:



"Standing on the site of an obliverated [sic] bayshore town termed 'The Village,' these stately oaks have seen history in the making. Indians, French, Confederate and Union forces, as well as local militia, have all held councils, sought enemies or camped beneath their spreading limbs 'The Village' waned in popularity before the Civil War and became a resort of some wild people who were a law unto themselves. It has been a deserted village, though occupying a beautiful site overlooking the bay and having a fine beach of clear sand at its front. But the glory of 'The Village,' old as its oaks, some of which are 200 years old and over, has come down to us as part of the history of South Alabama."





The Village Point Preserve Park is home to one of the largest and most historic live oaks in Alabama. This giant tree, which is 95 feet tall, with a circumference of 28 feet, was a landmark in the eighteenth century: it is shown as a survey line marker in the original Spanish Land Grant survey map of 1787. According to local traditions, General Andrew Jackson made a speech to his army from one of its massive limbs on his way to Pensacola during the War of 1812.

The Park also contains the D'Olive cemetery site, which dates back to the early 19th century, making the D'Olives the oldest family in Daphne and one of the oldest in Baldwin County. There are several graves remaining in the cemetery dating back to the 1800s with headstone inscriptions in French. It was customary to bury on one's own plantation, and often these silent reminders are all that is left to tell the story of the early pioneers.

Special thanks to Selena Vaughn and Al Guarisco, Village Point Foundation, for their assistance with information and photos. Historic photo of Jackson's Oak courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

MEETING SITES & ACCOMMODATIONS

RECEPTION VENUE

5 Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center
30945 Five Rivers Blvd.
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
(251) 625-0814

MEETING VENUE

Daphne United Methodist Church
2401 Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526
(251) 626-2287

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET VENUE

The Grand Hotel
1 Grand Boulevard
Point Clear, AL 36564
(251) 928-9201

HOTELS

Hampton Inn Mobile East Bay/Daphne
29451 Us Highway 98
Daphne, AL 36526
(251) 626-2220

Mention the AHA to receive a special rate of $89 ($99 for bayside rooms). Reservations must be made by April 4.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Spanish Fort
12000 Cypress Way
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
(251) 370-1160

Mention the AHA to receive the special rate of $99, plus tax. Reservations must be made by March 24.

Courtyard Marriott
12000 Cypress Way
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
(251) 370-1161

Mention the AHA to receive the special rate of $109, plus tax. Reservations must be made by March 24.

Hilton Garden Inn Mobile East Bay/Daphne
29546 N. Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526
(251) 625-0020

Mention the AHA to receive the special rate of $109, plus tax. Reservations must be made by April 4.



1 = 5 Rivers Center (Reception)

2 = Courtyard by Marriott

3 = Fairfield Inn

4 = Hampton Inn

5 = Hilton Garden Inn

6 = Daphne United Methodist Church (Meeting)

NOTE: A map containing the location of tour sites and Annual Awards Banquet will be distributed at registration.

E. O. WILSON TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Edward Osborne Wilson, Alabama native and Pellegrino University Research Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, is generally recognized as one of the several leading biologists in the world.

He is also recognized as one of the foremost naturalists in both science and literature, as well as synthesizer in works stretching from pure biology across to the social sciences and humanities. Wilson is acknowledged as the creator of two scientific disciplines (island biogeography and sociobiology), three unifying concepts for science and the humanities jointly (biophilia, biodiversity studies, and consilience), and one major technological advance in the study of global biodiversity (the *Encyclopedia of Life*).

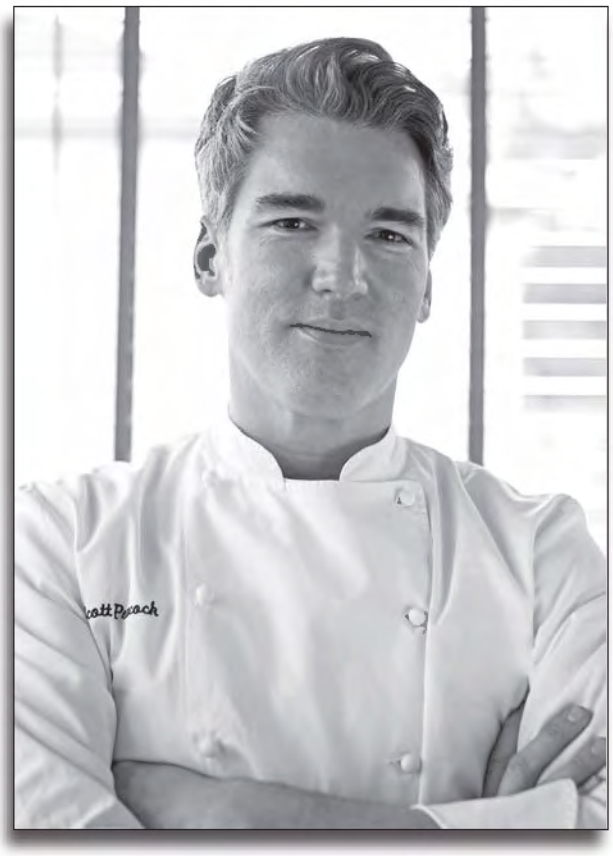
Since the early 1970s, Edward Wilson has also been very active in promoting conservation biology and its practical applications to conservation practice. The landmark work *BioDiversity* (1988) introduced the term *biodiversity* and the concept of a broadened new field of biodiversity studies. In a series of books, he explained to wide audiences the nature of biodiversity studies and the practical, religious, and moral reasons for protecting it (*The Diversity of Life*, 1992; *Consilience*, 1998; *The Future of Life*, 2002; and *The Creation*, 2006). In 2003 he invented the concept of the *Encyclopedia of Life*, the digitized database for all knowledge of all known species of organisms, available free, by single access, on command (http://www.eol.com).

Dr. Wilson will be joined by distinguished co-author/photographer Alex Harris, Professor of the Practice of Public Policy and Documentary Studies and a founder of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University.

Wilson is the recipient of 40 honorary degrees from North America and Europe, and more than 120 awards from around the world, including in science, the U.S. National Medal of Science, the Crafoord Prize, given by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science as the Nobel equivalent in ecology, and the International Prize of Biology, Japan. In letters, he has received two Pulitzer prizes in non-fiction (*On Human Nature*, 1979; *The Ants*, 1991), the Serono and Nonino Prizes of Italy, and most recently, the Heartland Prize of the Chicago Tribune for his novel *Anthill*, which is set in Mobile, Alabama. His forthcoming book is a history of Mobile from the time of French explorers to the recent Gulf oil spill.



MASTER CHEF AND AUTHOR SCOTT PEACOCK FEATURED ON SATURDAY



Widely recognized as a culinary treasure of the South, Scott Peacock is one of the nation's most respected and influential chefs. He has been at the forefront of the local food movement since the early 1990s, when he and his longtime friend and collaborator, the culinary legend Edna Lewis, co-founded the Society For the Revival and Preservation of Southern Food. They organized symposiums that drew the participation of highly respected writers and food professionals from all over, laying the groundwork for what is now the nationally revered Southern Foodways Alliance.

Born and raised in rural Alabama, Mr. Peacock was chosen at the age of 24 to man the kitchen of the Georgia Governors Mansion. Later he was the opening chef of Atlanta's Horseradish Grill, where he built a reputation for restoring purity and refinement to Southern cooking.

Mr. Peacock's extraordinary longtime friendship with Ms. Lewis has been celebrated throughout the media. They have been featured twice in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, and major articles have been written about their relationship in *Gourmet*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and many other publications. In 2003, the two chefs published the best selling cookbook, *The Gift of Southern Cooking*, which was a nominee for best regional cookbook in both the James Beard and International Association of Culinary Professionals cookbook competitions.

An accomplished writer, speaker, and media personality, Mr. Peacock has for the past two years produced the monthly American Classics column for *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, and appears regularly on the Today show. He has also cooked on Good Morning America as well as Martha Stewart's television show, and has been interviewed on National Public Radio. He has written pieces for *Gourmet* and *Bon Appetit* magazines, and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. His essay on "The Art of the Biscuit" was selected for Holly Hughes' *Best Food Writing 2008* anthology. Photographs of his recipes have graced the covers of *Gourmet*, *Food & Wine*, and *Fine Cooking*, and *Food & Wine* proclaimed his fried chicken one of the 25 best recipes ever.

Mr. Peacock left the restaurant business in 2010 to focus on writing and produce a documentary about the traditional foodways of Alabama, as told through oral histories of its longest living citizens. That same year, he was honored for his work with Southern food by Yale University with a prestigious Masters Tea.

2010 FALL PILGRIMAGE

The 2010 AHA fall pilgrimage to Moundville Archaeological Park was a huge success, thanks to park director Bill Bomar; Eugene Futato, University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research; and Dr. Jim Knight, University of Alabama professor and archaeological expert.



University of Alabama undergraduate Elizabeth Wilson



Jim Lee, Mary Afton Lee, Kathryn Braund



Sharon Deck, Lewis Dean, Ola Ann Lee



Kathy Henderson and Cosette, the youngest 2010 pilgrim.



John Hall and David Robb



Buddy and Martha Griffith



AUTAUGA COUNTY
HAPPY HOLLOW

Known as Fair Road, Sixth Street from Northington Street to the big curve was called "Happy Hollow." The road went to the Fair home place but also curved right, into Warren Circle. Here stood a small frame church where the congregation's enthusiastic preaching, singing, and shouting led to the name Happy Hollow Church. Bethlehem Colored Methodist Episcopal was relocated in 1947 to Chestnut and Sixth, and renamed Bethlehem Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

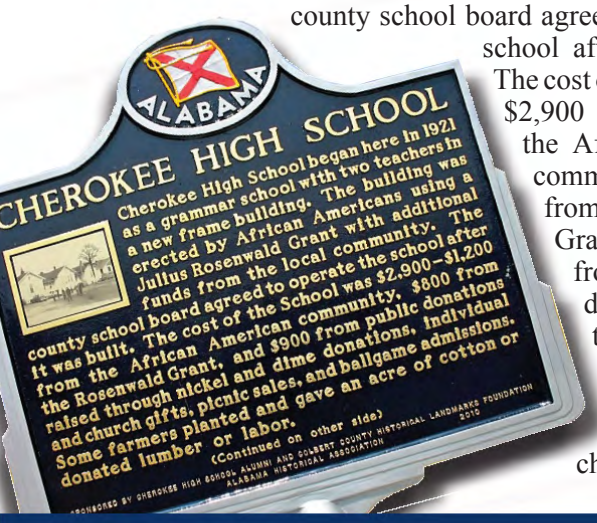
Within the Hollow the "Spring," one of Prattville's signature artesian wells, provided water for drinking, cooking, bathing and washing before the city had a central water system. The mail route ended at the home of Miss Molly Burt where all the neighbors picked up their mail. These gathering places made for a close-knit community.

A traditional African American neighborhood, the Hollow was home for domestic workers, farm laborers, landowners and sharecroppers. Descendants of these families became leaders in Prattville and beyond: educators, nurses, doctors, accountants, carpenters, armed forces and ministers.

Beloved as a place to grow up even in segregated times; black and white children could not go to school together but played together in the branch that runs the length of The Hollow. [2010: Prattville]

COLBERT COUNTY
SIDE 1
CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL

Cherokee High School began here in 1921 as a grammar school with two teachers in a new frame building. The building was erected by African Americans using a Julius Rosenwald Grant with additional funds from the local community. The county school board agreed to operate the school after it was built. The cost of the school was $2,900 -- $1,200 from the African American community, $800 from the Rosenwald Grant, and $900 from public donations raised through nickel and dime donations, individual church gifts, picnic sales, and ball-game admissions. Some farmers planted and gave an acre of cotton or donated lumber or labor.



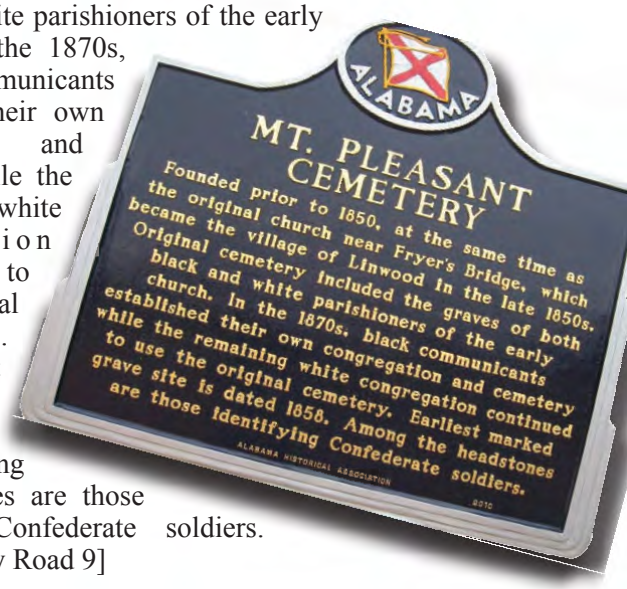
SIDE 2
CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL

Cherokee was one of seven Rosenwald schools in Colbert County and one of 5,357 such schools, workshops, and teacher homes built in the South. As it grew, more teachers and classrooms were added. Grammar school graduates from Lane Springs, Barton, and Pride attended the school plus additional students from Carter Branch, MS. The first class graduated in 1938 and the last class in 1969. Total graduates exceeded 500. Five principals served the school: Alfred Carter, Amanda Bailey, E.Z. Matthews, C.K. Calloway, and P.B. Reynolds. Due to integration, the school closed and students moved to Cherokee Vocational High School. Later, after renovation, the school reopened as a middle school.

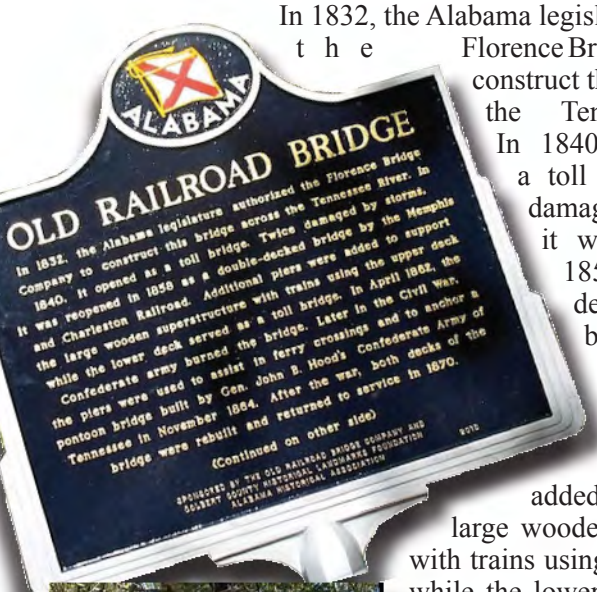
Sponsored by the Cherokee High School Alumni and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2010: ¾ mile east of Main Street & Hwy 20, Cherokee]

PIKE COUNTY
MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

Founded prior to 1850, at the same time as the original church near Fryer's Bridge, which became the village of Linwood in the late 1850s. Original cemetery included the graves of both black and white parishioners of the early church. In the 1870s, black communicants established their own congregation and cemetery while the remaining white congregation continued to use the original cemetery. Earliest marked grave site is dated 1858. Among the headstones are those identifying Confederate soldiers. [2010: County Road 9]



COLBERT COUNTY
SIDE 1
OLD RAILROAD BRIDGE



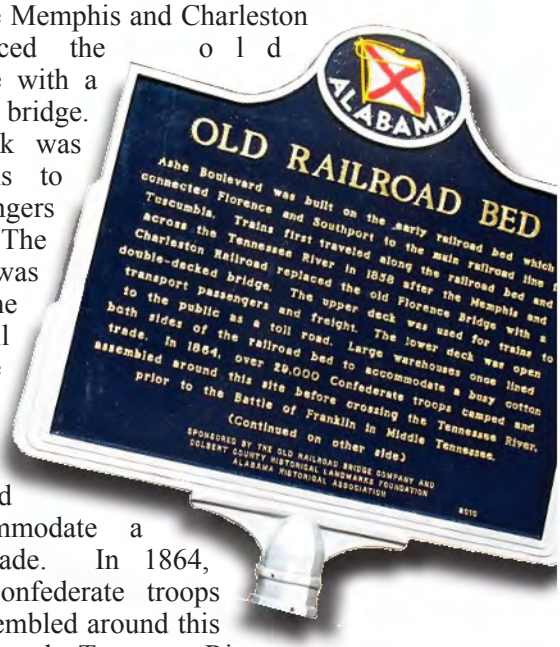


In 1832, the Alabama legislature authorized the Florence Bridge Company to construct this bridge across the Tennessee River. In 1840, it opened as a toll bridge. Twice damaged by storms, it was reopened in 1858 as a double-decked bridge by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. Additional piers were added to support the large wooden superstructure with trains using the upper deck while the lower deck served as a toll bridge. In April 1862, the Confederate army burned the bridge. Later in the Civil War, the piers were used to assist in ferry crossings and to anchor a pontoon bridge built by Gen. John B. Hood's Confederate Army of Tennessee in November 1864. After the war, both decks of the bridge were rebuilt and returned to service in 1870.

SIDE 2
OLD RAILROAD BRIDGE

In 1892, an engine and five cars crashed through both decks into the river. The superstructure was replaced with steel spans which are still visible. A turn span crossed the navigation channel until 1962 when a lift span was installed and used until 1992. Trains used the upper deck until 1988, as did streetcars from 1904 to 1933. The lower deck served as a toll bridge until O'Neal Bridge opened in 1939. In 1993, the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Company donated the bridge to the Old Railroad Bridge Company. The 1560-foot long lower deck was restored to serve as a walking trail. With the original piers a part of the present structure, it is the oldest river bridge in Alabama.
Sponsored by the Old Railroad Bridge Company and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2010]

COLBERT COUNTY
SIDE 1
OLD RAILROAD BED



Ashe Boulevard was built on the early railroad bed which connected Florence and Southport to the main railroad line in Tuscumbia. Trains first traveled along the railroad bed and across the Tennessee River in 1858 after the Memphis and Charleston Railroad replaced the old Florence Bridge with a double-decked bridge. The upper deck was used for trains to transport passengers and freight. The lower deck was open to the public as a toll road. Large warehouses once lined both sides of the railroad bed to accommodate a busy cotton trade. In 1864, over 29,000 Confederate troops camped and assembled around this site before crossing the Tennessee River, prior to the Battle of Franklin in Middle Tennessee.

SIDE 2
OLD RAILROAD BED

In 1904, the Sheffield Development Company replaced local passenger train service with streetcars which utilized the railroad tracks until 1933. The railroad was abandoned in 1988 by the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Company and was donated in 1993 to the Old Railroad Bridge Company with the adjoining right-of-way. In 1995, this property, minus the bridge, was given to the City of Sheffield. The railroad bed was paved by the city in 1999 and named Ashe Boulevard in memory of Laughlin Ashe, Mayor of Sheffield from 1992 until his death in 1995.
Sponsored by the Old Railroad Bridge Company and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2010: Ashe Blvd., Sheffield]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
THE E.L. POSEY PARKING LOT

This site, known as "Posey's Parking Lot," served the black

community as one of two major transportation centers during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Mrs. Rosa Parks's December 1, 1955 arrest following her refusal to surrender her seat at the order of the white bus driver sparked protests against segregation on the Montgomery City Bus Lines. After city authorities outlawed the use of black taxis as an alternative form of transportation for boycotters, the parking lot, operated by local black business owners, Eddie L. and Dorothy Posey, served as a transportation hub in the midst of the city's black business district. Over 200 sedans and station wagons, dubbed "rolling churches" since many were owned and operated by African-American churches, shuttled some 2,000 black passengers daily over more than a year to work and to shop. On November 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower federal court decision in Browder vs. Gayle, declaring segregation in city bus seating unconstitutional. Integrated bus service began on December 21, 1956. This parking lot continued to operate until 1967. [2010: McDonough Street, Montgomery]

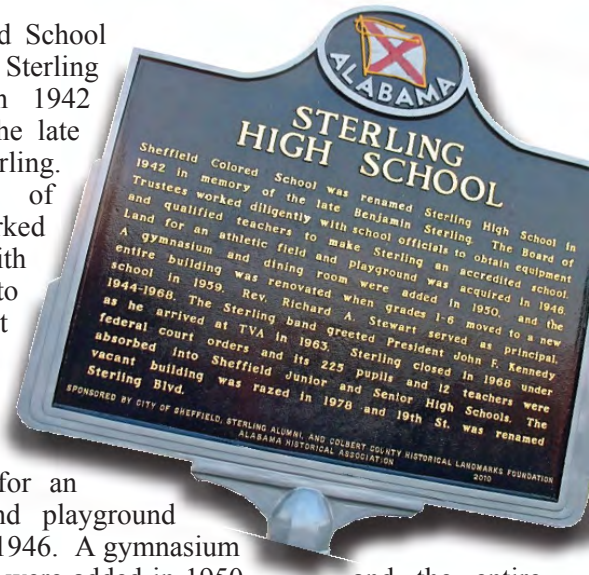


COLBERT COUNTY
SIDE 1
SHEFFIELD COLORED SCHOOL

Public education for Sheffield's black children began in 1889 in a frame building at E. 20th St. and S. Atlanta Ave. with Henry Hopkins as teacher. Professor Benjamin J. Sterling (1847-1941), a former slave, became principal in 1896 and continued to teach until 1936. Sheffield Colored High School began in 1920 with 13 students. Grammar and high school classes were taught in the frame building and in several churches. In 1921, P.B. Swoopes and Marion C. McDaniel became the first high school graduates. By then the old building was dilapidated and overcrowded. Supporters of the school donated land on E. 19th St. and the Sheffield Board of Education erected a modern brick building in 1923 at a cost of $20,227.50 to house all 12 grades. The architect was D.L. Sigmon and the contractor was the Florence Lumber Co.



SIDE 2
STERLING HIGH SCHOOL



Sheffield Colored School was renamed Sterling High School in 1942 in memory of the late Benjamin Sterling. The Board of Trustees worked diligently with school officials to obtain equipment and qualified teachers to make Sterling an accredited school. Land for an athletic field and playground was acquired in 1946. A gymnasium and dining room were added in 1950, and the entire building was renovated when grades 1-6 moved to a new school in 1959. Rev. Richard A. Stewart served as principal, 1944-1968. The Sterling band greeted President John F. Kennedy as he arrived at TVA in 1963. Sterling closed in 1968 under federal court orders and its 225 pupils and 12 teachers were absorbed into Sheffield Junior and Senior High Schools. The vacant building was razed in 1978 and 19th St. was renamed Sterling Blvd.

Sponsored by City of Sheffield, Sterling Alumni, and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation [2010: E. 19th Street, Sheffield]

1Washington County
South Oak Grove Baptist Church

Founded in 1880 as Oak Grove Baptist Church, the congregation added "South" to its name in ca. 1912. The church began under the Macedonia Baptist Association and, in 1919, joined with the Washington County Baptist Association. Among its many pastors was one, Brother J.W. Singley, who served over fifty years. Until Fruitdale High School opened in 1924, the church also served as a community school.

The community and the state jointly owned the property until October 1950, when Governor James E. Folsom and Washington County Schools Superintendent A.R. Meadows, for a promissory note of $50.00, sold the school board's interest to members of the South Oak Grove Baptist Church and their successors. The church stands on the foundation of Christ's love and meeting the spiritual needs of the surrounding area.

THE AHA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY'S FINDINGS

By Marty Olliff and Robert Burroughs

In the Fall 2010 issue of the *Alabama Historical Association Newsletter*, we reported the findings of our demographic survey of the AHA Board of Directors. This was a pilot, question testing project for a much larger venture—a demographic and satisfaction survey of the association's general membership supported by a generous grant from the Troy University Faculty Development Committee.

Between mid- April and mid-June, 2010, we mailed a two-page questionnaire to 261 randomly-selected AHA members (25 percent of the 1044 names appearing on the membership list at that time). In July and August, our assistant conducted telephone interviews with many of those who did not complete the survey. Together these contacts yielded 178 responses.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings from that survey tell us many things we assumed—and a few things we did not know—about the AHA.

The AHA membership is significantly older than the population of the United States and the state. Sixty-three percent of AHA members are over 65 years of age compared to 12.4 percent of the population of the US and 13 percent of Alabama residents. Furthermore, only 8 percent of AHA members are under 45 years of age.

Members work in a wide variety of fields, though education predominates (over 39 percent). Medical professionals, from doctors and nurses to office workers, are the second-largest occupational group at slightly more than 12 percent. Information professionals including librarians, archivists, museum workers, and similar occupations account for more than 8 percent, followed by business managers and owners (7 percent), and those in the legal profession (almost 6 percent). The survey revealed two surprises—the surprisingly large number of hard scientists among AHA members (2.4 percent) and the low number of ministers (1.2 percent). Retired and working members split almost evenly.

Furthermore, survey results indicate that they are well-educated, well-to-do, and live in larger towns and cities. Almost 94 percent of respondents had a bachelors', masters', doctoral, or professional degrees. Half of those surveyed made between $60,000 and $124,999, while over one-third made more than $125,000 annually. Approximately 20 percent live on farms or in rural areas while almost 48 percent live in cities over 50,000.

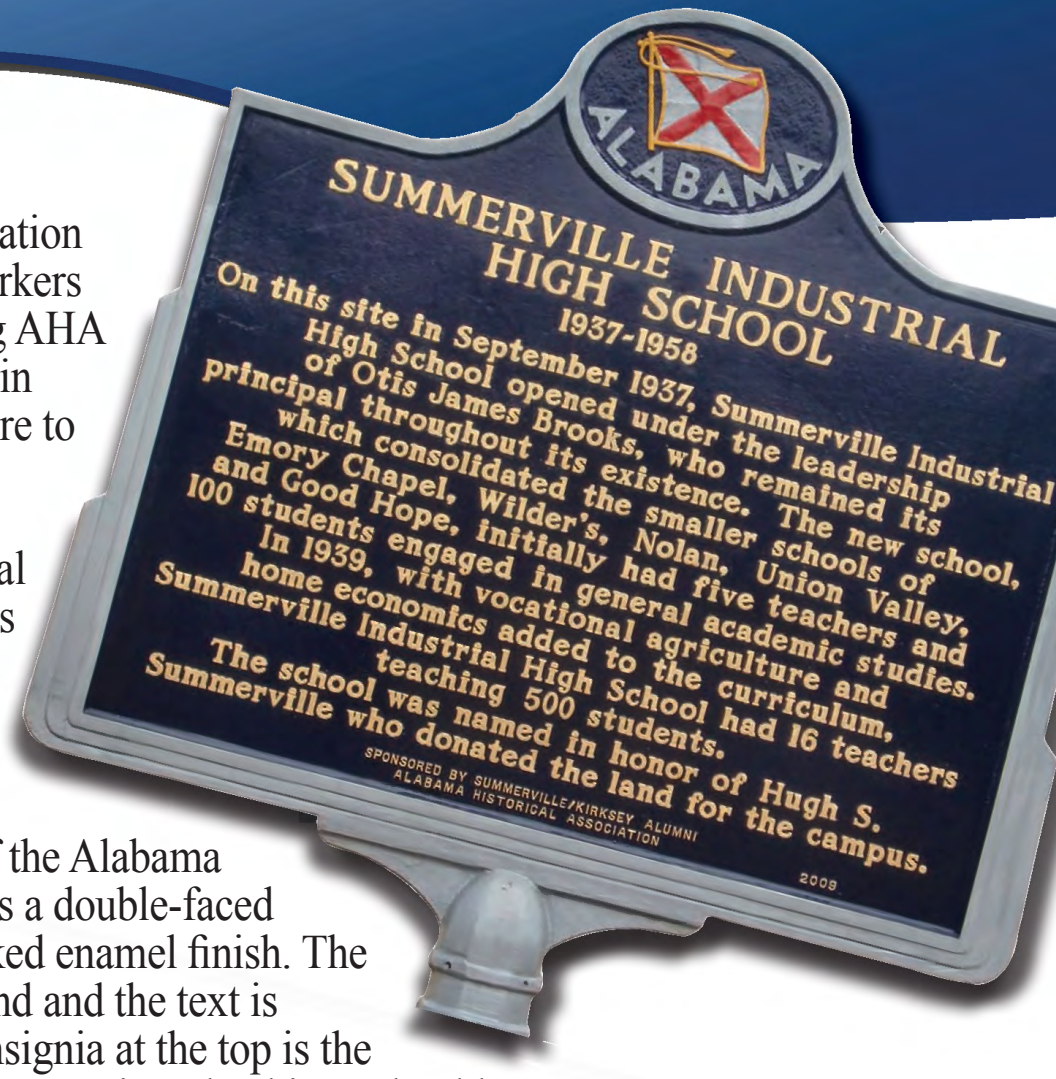
The survey captured more men than women (56.7 percent to 43.3 percent) and informed us that almost three-fourths of us are married. In addition, 98 percent of AHA members are white, with a few African-American and racially "other" members.

In addition, AHA members and their families have lived in the state for a long time. Almost 77 percent report living in Alabama for thirty or more years, and 91 percent have lived in the state over ten years. Eighty-five percent report that their Alabama connections stretch back to their great-grand parents and beyond.

Not surprisingly, over 70 percent hold individual memberships in AHA while almost 23 percent hold family memberships. Interestingly, however, slightly more than half have been AHA members for less than ten years (though 17 percent have been members for more than thirty). Nine out of ten members replied that the AHA satisfies their needs. When asked why or why not, 72 answered with praise, information about how they view the association, criticism, or suggestions for improvement. The final solicitation for comments drew 32 responses. All are very helpful in determining the future of the AHA.

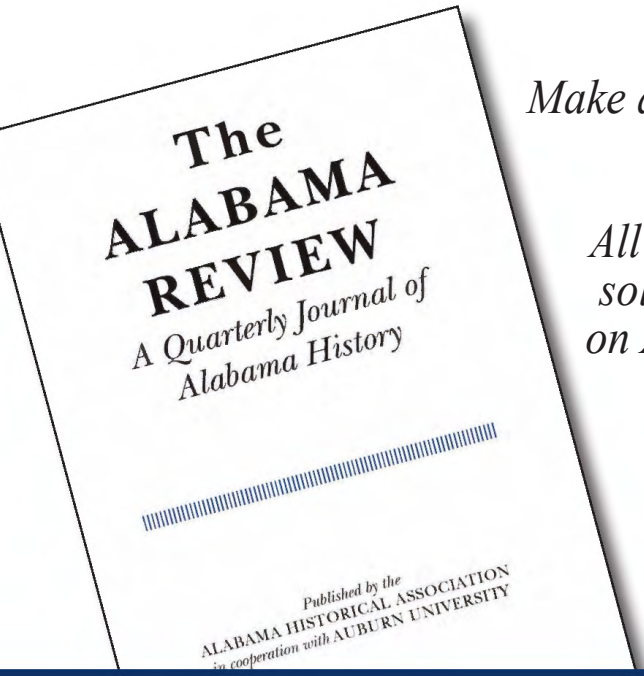
Back to the original question: Who are we? We're well-educated, well-to-do, older city-dwellers who trace our Alabama connections back a number of generations and have lived in the state much of our lives. We come from a variety of occupations, have joined the AHA in the past decade, and are generally satisfied with our association. And if you ask, we'll tell you what we think.

Robert Burroughs is an associate professor of sociology and Marty Olliff is an archivist and associate professor of history, both at Troy University Dothan Campus.



The Alabama Historical Association began sponsoring historical markers as early as 1950, and a standing AHA marker committee was created in 1952. The committee's duties are to encourage and assist interested parties in the purchase and erection of markers for historical sites. The committee also serves to check the accuracy of information carried in the proposed marker texts and to attest to a site's historic importance. The distinctive design of the Alabama Historical Association marker is a double-faced case aluminum plate with a baked enamel finish. The plate has a deep blue background and the text is portrayed in gold letters. The insignia at the top is the Alabama flag, the St. Andrew's cross, in red, white and gold.

For more information regarding historical markers, please visit www.alabamahistory.net



Make a lasting contribution to Alabama history with a gift to the Alabama Review endowment fund.

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Register for the 64th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, April 14-16, 2011.

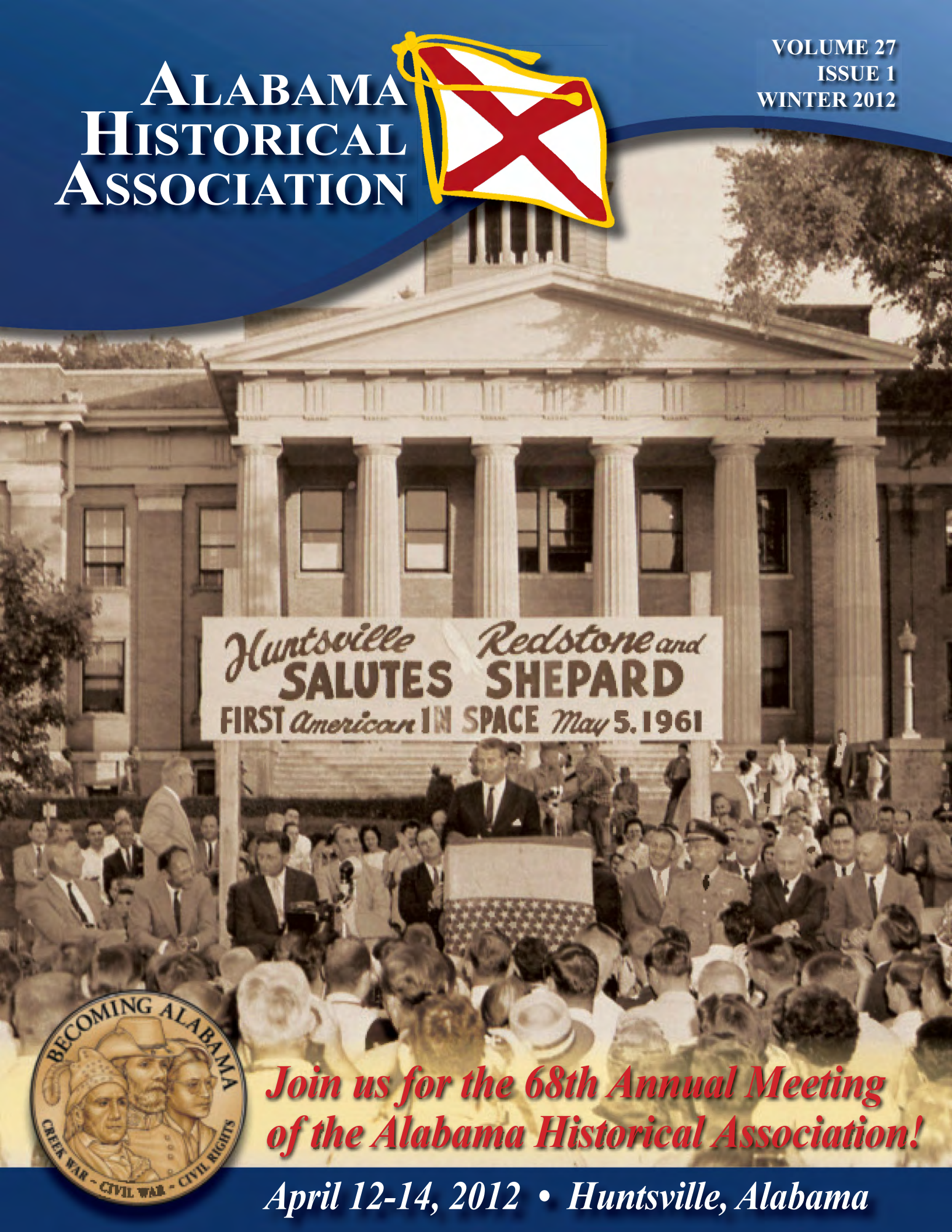
Catch all the details inside!



Image: Fishing in the Mobile Delta. Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Alabama Historical Association

VOLUME 27
ISSUE 1
WINTER 2012



Join us for the 68th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association!

April 12-14, 2012 • Huntsville, Alabama

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Cover image: Dr. Wernher von Braun addresses a crowd celebrating in front of the Madison County Courthouse following the successful launch of astronaut Alan Shepard into space on a Mercury-Redstone Launch Vehicle, Freedom 7. (Photo: Courtesy of Huntsville/Madison County Public Library)

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Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Steve Murray

Attendees of this year's annual meeting in Huntsville should come prepared to think about change. It is a recurring theme in the city's history, from the period when it witnessed the birth of the twenty-second state, to a time of turmoil as it shifted hands repeatedly between Federal and Confederate forces, to a period of rapid growth as the city hosted the development of our country's space program.

This year's program will allow us to explore all of those stories and more, often in the very places where these remarkable events unfolded.

We will start things off, appropriately enough, with a pre-meeting opportunity to tour an Alabama town that incorporated during Alabama's territorial period. Mooresville is a lovingly preserved historic village that you will find just off I-565 on your way to Huntsville. I hope you will allow time in your travel schedule on Thursday to stretch your legs and enjoy some refreshments.

Staying in the early nineteenth century, Thursday evening's reception will be at Alabama Constitution Village, site of the 1819 convention in which 44 delegates ushered in statehood. We will have a light repast, enjoy some entertainment, and have the option to take a guided walking tour of Historic Twickenham, the city's oldest neighborhood.

This year's meeting coincides with the 150th anniversary of the first Federal occupation of Huntsville during the Civil War. On Friday morning, we are fortunate to have an opportunity to hear from Mary Jane Chadick, a diarist who recorded the events of the tumultuous period that followed.

The paper sessions on Friday and Saturday reflect the good work and difficult decisions of the program committee. Whatever your interests, I think you will find topics with appeal. Friday afternoon offers some fascinating tours that you will find detailed in the following pages.

And then we are in store for a special treat on Friday evening, when we gather at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration, a recent addition to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, we will dine beneath the Saturn V rocket in a venue of breathtaking scale.

Our banquet speaker will be Roger Launius, senior curator at the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Space History. Among the most prolific historians of space exploration, Dr. Launius is also an engaging speaker, unusually adept at making technical subjects entirely approachable. I expect that you will enjoy him immensely.

On Saturday we resume with shape-note singing over breakfast as David Ivey speaks to us about the special north Alabama flavors of this tradition. More excellent papers and a luncheon will round out our schedule.

I hope you will be with us in Huntsville for a splendid weekend of learning and fellowship. Take this opportunity to introduce friends or family members to the Association, and bring them with you. An electronic copy of the *Newsletter* will be available for viewing at www.alabamahistory.net, so you can give your copy to a prospective member and still have access to the information you need.

The Alabama Review

In the fall Newsletter, I shared with you some information on the pending relocation of the *Alabama Review* from Auburn University to the University of West Alabama (UWA). Since then, the Association and the two universities have settled on the particulars and timing of the transfer.

In November, the Association and UWA signed a five-year agreement under which UWA will host the editorial office and produce the journal on a quarterly basis beginning with the July 2012 issue.

The terms of the agreement are very similar to those in place at Auburn. Two modifications include a provision for UWA to retain any advertising revenue they might generate under a policy to be developed in conjunction with the Association, and a modest increase in the quarterly honorarium paid by the Association to the editorial office.

If you would like to thank our new hosts for their strong expression of support for the *Review* and the Association, please drop a note to President Richard Holland or Provost David Taylor at The University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL 35470.

Editor Bill Trimble and Associate Editor Carey Cauthen will conclude their service to the Association with the April 2012 issue. In conjunction with Department Chair Charles Israel, they are doing everything possible to effect a smooth transition to the new offices at UWA.

To express your appreciation for their diligent work and the general support of the History Department over the years, write to them at Department of History, 310 Thach Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849.

Huntsville to Host Annual Meeting

"The land around Huntsville, and the whole of Madison County, of which it is the capital, is rich and beautiful as you can imagine; and the appearance of wealth would baffle belief…The citizens are gay, polite, and hospitable, and live in great splendor. Nothing like it in our Country." – Anne Royall, 1818

Situated in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Huntsville has been welcoming visitors to north Alabama for over two hundred years. The Mississippi Territorial Legislature officially incorporated this humble settlement on November 25, 1811. As a leading southern city, it has enjoyed a long and vibrant history, rich in its people, politics, prestige, and culture. Over time, Huntsville has been home to some extraordinary, forward-thinking minds that have helped shape its development, always pulling it through hard times. This pattern runs like a vein through three basic phases of Huntsville history that include settlement and agriculture, nineteenth-century industrialization, and twentieth-century technology.

Huntsville's settlement period began with Tennessean John Hunt, who ventured to the area with a friend. The two men stopped and spent the night with the Criner family on the banks of the Flint River, where Mrs. Criner welcomed them with a hearty Scots-Irish meal. The next morning, Hunt went on to stake his claim on the Big Spring. The year was 1805, and from then on Huntsville continued to grow and boast of many successes before the Civil War, including one of the first public water systems, serving as the first capital of Alabama in 1819, and as an early nineteenth-century center for banking and business.

The surrounding area also began cultivating a strong cotton-based agricultural economy, making Huntsville the perfect home for an extensive cotton market. Cotton was



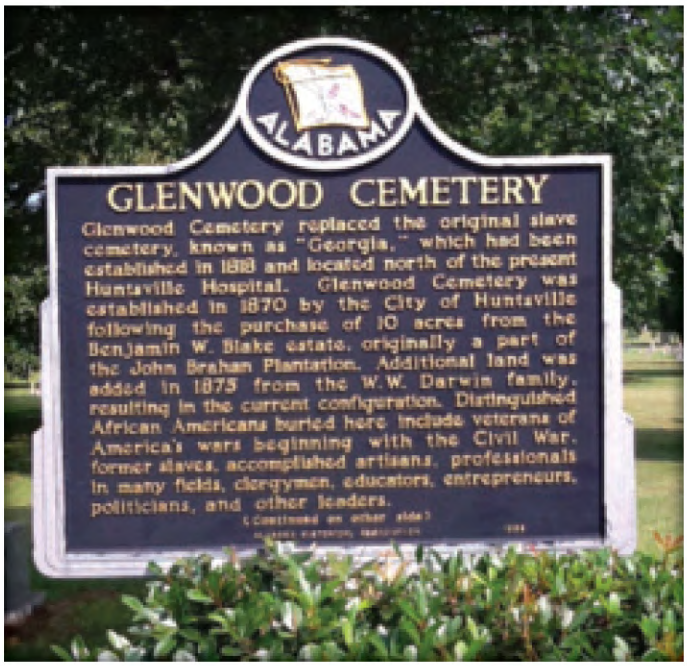


king in Huntsville and Madison County in the antebellum period. Anne Royall wrote while visiting Huntsville, "the cotton fields are astonishingly large, 4 or 5 hundred acres in a field without parallel, although the land is level, you cannot see the end of the fields either way. To a stranger coming suddenly amongst the fields, it has the appearance of magic."

An 1816 territorial census reveals that shortly before statehood, Madison County had a population of 14,200. Of that number, 10,000 were white and 4,200 were enslaved African Americans. Slavery was central to the growth of Madison County. In his *Slavery in Alabama*, James Benson Sellers observes, "The pioneers who settled Alabama had to hack out their homes and farms.…They could not have done it alone" (p. 17). In their study of Alabama slavery, researchers Henry and Marsha Kass Marks note that by 1830 Madison County possessed 11.6 percent of the state's slaves, clearly showing how significant was their contribution to the economy and growth of the Tennessee Valley.

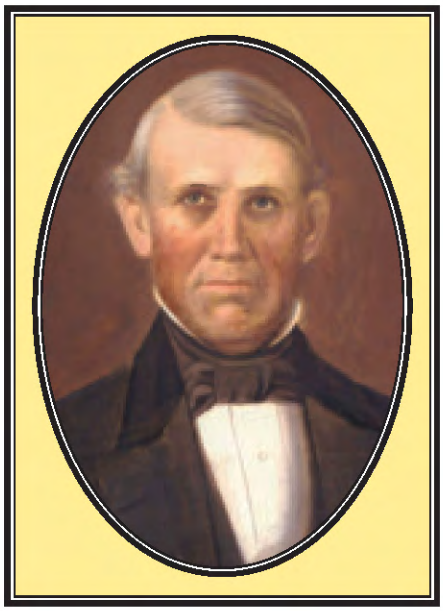
In 1818 the City of Huntsville purchased 2 acres of land from LeRoy Pope for an African American graveyard. The Old Georgia cemetery, as it was known, became a place of worship and community for the slaves, and by 1820 they established a congregation later known as the Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church. It was named after Reverend Bartley Harris, who was said to have baptized over 4,000 souls in the Big Spring.

The city fathers of the settlement and antebellum eras played important roles statewide. Huntsville school children always learn about Georgia aristocrat LeRoy Pope and



his fine estate, Poplar Grove; Thomas Bibb, who moved to Madison County in 1816, eventually becoming second governor of Alabama (1820-1821); and Clement Comer Clay, who was appointed chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, served as eighth governor of Alabama (1835-1837) and became a United States senator (1837-1841).

Perhaps the most brilliant and learned of all the early city fathers was Dr. Thomas Fearn. Settling in Huntsville in 1810, Dr. Fearn led his profession in the treatment of malaria. He is also responsible for installing the Huntsville Waterworks at the Big Spring and building the Fearn Canal that stretched from the Big Spring to the Tennessee River, permitting goods to be transported as far as Liverpool, England. Dr. Fearn was also an advocate of higher education for females and served on the board of trustees for the Huntsville Female Seminary, built in 1831.

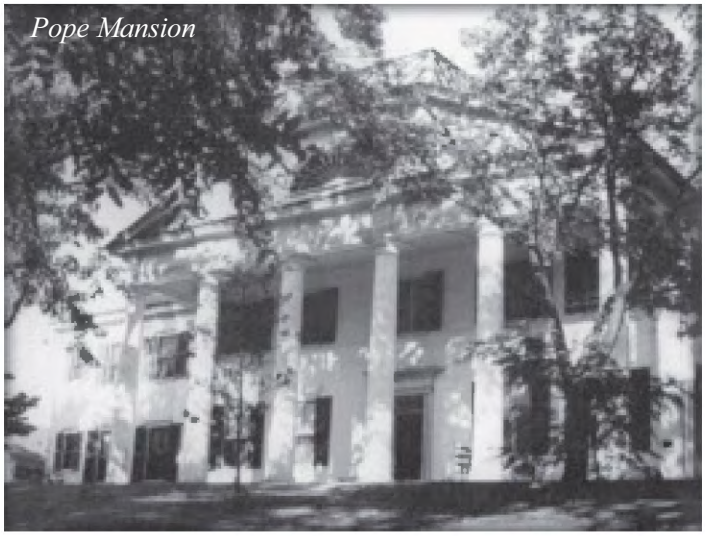


Dr. Thomas Fearn

It has been said that no one shaped the physical appearance of antebellum Huntsville more than architect George Steele. He arrived in Huntsville in 1818 and became known for his work in the Greek Revival style. He designed many of Huntsville's outstanding structures, some still enjoyed today: the old Planters and Merchants bank on West Side Square, the Episcopal Church, the second courthouse, both the Female College and Seminary, and many other wonderful antebellum homes. These structures possess quintessential elements that speak of wealth and prosperity, particularly in the case of the Pope mansion. This home was prominently situated atop Echols Hill, where in the nineteenth century its imposing Doric columns were visible from every point in Huntsville.

As suggested by the abundant show of wealth, the cotton economy was strong. The rich, red clay of north Alabama produced high quality cotton. This led to a "cotton bonanza" in the 1850s, but this period of burgeoning prosperity was soon to end.

Huntsville was occupied on and off during the Civil War. It has been said that not even a dog barked the first time Huntsville was occupied. The town folk were caught completely by surprise. On April 11, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ormsby McKnight Mitchell, under Maj. Gen. Carlos



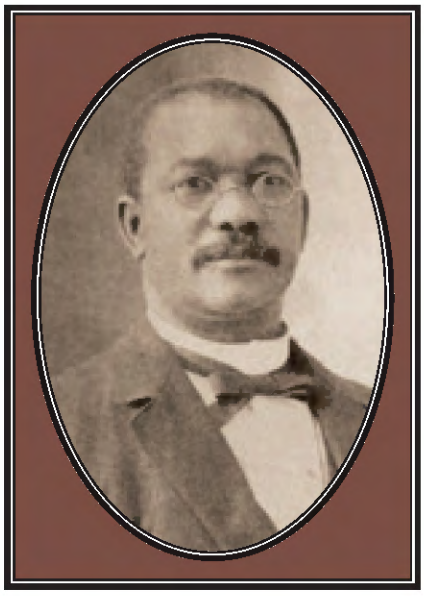
Pope Mansion





Buell of the Army of Ohio, led the invading Federal force, eventually stationing 35,000 troops in Huntsville. When the final defeat of the Confederacy came, the Federal troops on duty in Huntsville continued to occupy the town until relieved by members of the Federal Reserve Corps, who served during the trying period of Reconstruction.

After the Civil War, the people of Huntsville wasted no time in forming plans to rebuild their lives. Although the city was hit hard economically, it had not been burned to the ground or sacked as was the case of Athens, a mere 27 miles away. Newly emancipated African Americans began to enjoy the opportunities brought by freedom, and in 1870 Rust School was established as a Freedmen's school. By 1880, Huntsville had elected African Americans Daniel S. Brandon and T.W. Townsend to serve on the Board of Aldermen. A year later property was bought for the location of the Colored Normal School, known today as Alabama A&M University. Dr. William Hooper Council served as the first President.



Dr. William Hooper Council

Between 1880 and 1900, business leaders worked to revitalize the economy by improving agriculture and encouraging a variety of industries. Nurseries were established, textile mills built, and numbers of small factories opened to produce wood products, small tools, and implements. Eventually, the city began to court large-scale industrial developers under the guidance of a newly formed group of businessmen, the North Alabama Improvement Company. They spearheaded a campaign to "bring the cotton mills to the cotton fields," rather than continuing to send raw cotton to northern mills.

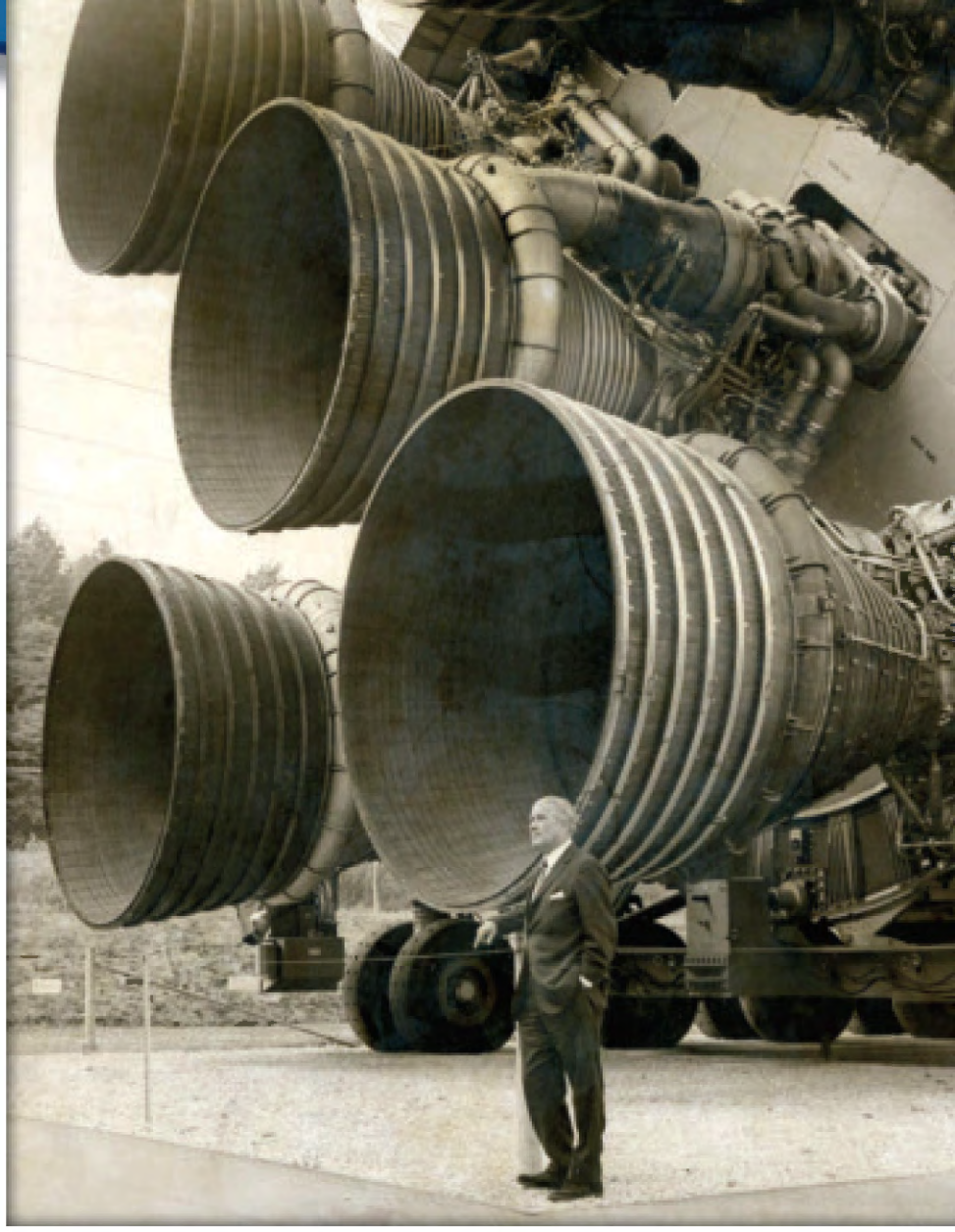
An 1880 article in the *Huntsville Advocate* proclaimed, "Huntsville must not stand still. Progress is the word." Thousands of brochures were mailed out with a new slogan: "The Biggest Town for its Size in the World." This campaign increased Huntsville's population by leaps and bounds. Many of these new citizens were investors from the North, such as the O'Shaughnessy brothers. Cincinnati entrepreneurs Michael and James O'Shaughnessy arrived in 1881. Huntsville residents never considered them carpetbaggers because there wasn't a carpetbag large enough to hold all their deeds and securities.



In 1891, large-scale industry came to Huntsville when Dallas Manufacturing opened Dallas Mill. Its 25,000 spindles rivaled the great factories of the already industrialized north. Huntsville citizenry had embraced the age of industrialization, and other investors also sought out Huntsville's resources, including the industry giant Merrimack Manufacturing of Lowell, Massachusetts. The textile industry had transformed the basic cotton-picking



Virginia Clay Clopton and Suffragetes



Wernher von Braun

economy to that of full-scale production, allowing a portion of its products to be shipped to China, thus making Huntsville not only a leading city in the South but also an international city.

Huntsville had also developed a lively cultural scene that included musicals at the Opera House, vaudeville at the Elks Lodge, and traveling circus groups. Women were moving to the forefront of daily life, and in 1894 Virginia Clay-Clopton and other ladies formed the Huntsville League for Women's Suffrage. Her nieces, the Clay sisters, were among the first female editors in the United States. Susannah and Virginia Clay were the editors of *Huntsville Democrat* newspaper for over 15 years.

Other notable female Huntsvillians include artist Maria Howard Weeden (1846-1905) best known for her portraits of former slaves. Also noteworthy is Anne Bradshaw Clopton (1878-1956), otherwise known as the "Cob Web artist". Among the distinguished female leaders of the black community, Ms. Dulcina DeBerry was the first African American librarian in Madison County. She worked to open a branch of the Huntsville Public Library for African American citizens.

Textile production suffered during the Great Depression, and Huntsville again looked to new ways of improving city prospects. Community leaders redoubled their efforts in the promotion of north Alabama and the beautiful Tennessee Valley, making it a hospitable environment for new growth. The United States government chose Huntsville as the site for munitions factories during World War II, and Redstone Arsenal was born.

After World War II, Wernher von Braun and other German scientists were moved to Huntsville in 1950 to facilitate missile research and production. Everything changed, and the population skyrocketed. The cotton market town of the past soon gave way to engineers and scientists. Moreover, with such a strong federal presence and federal funding hanging in the balance, Huntsville eliminated the vestiges of segregation in the courthouse. The brave fight for civil liberties among Huntsville's black community was strengthened and resulted in school integration when, in 1963, Sonnie Hereford IV became the first black child to enroll in a previously all-white public school in the state of Alabama.

Huntsville has continued to embrace technology and change from the days of settlement and fields of cotton, through the age of industrialization, to the ever-changing new fields of computer and space-age technology. The area continues to grow in astounding ways. According to the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville's Cummings Research Park is the nation's second-largest research and technology park, containing 285 companies employing 25,000 people involved in technology, research, and development. In the area of precision manufacturing there are 220 companies with 32,000 workers. *Forbes* magazine and the *Wall Street Journal* rank Huntsville among America's leading technology communities. The town slogan from 1880 "Huntsville must not stand still" may have changed, but "progress" is still the word.

Susanna Leberman works as archivist and historian at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. *She would like to acknowledge the contributions of Ranee' Pruitt, who served as head archivist at the library for over forty years. Images courtesy of Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.*



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pre-meeting Walking Tour of Mooresville

6:00 p.m. Reception, Alabama Constitution Village, 109 Gates Avenue, Huntsville

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

8:30 a.m. Registration, Holiday Inn Huntsville Downtown, 401 Williams Avenue, Huntsville

9:30 a.m. General Session, Holiday Inn

10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions, Holiday Inn

SESSION ONE

"Littafuchee: The Opening Act in Andrew Jackson's War on the Red Sticks" – *T.R. Henderson, Headland*

"An Indiscriminate Slaughter: The Last Stand of the Creek Indians at Pea River and Pea Creek, 1837" *John Phil McLaney, Jr., Troy University Library*

"Early Days in Alabama: Territorial Settlement Through Antebellum Development" *Elizabeth Crabtree Wells, Samford University Special Collection*

SESSION TWO

"Judging the Courthouse: Monroe County's Changing Definition of its Most Famous Building," *Harriet Swift, New Orleans*

"A Deep Study: Searching For Historical Burials in Three Dimensions at Sweetwater Plantation," *George Makowski, University of North Alabama*

"A Tuscaloosa Bungalow: Artifact of the Antebellum Fantasy" – *Elizabeth Shores, Little Rock*

SESSION THREE

"Race, Unionism, and the Open Shop: Mobile, Alabama, 1914-1923" *Robert H. Woodrum, Georgia Perimeter College-Dunwoody Campus*

"Murder, Celebration, and Politics: Birmingham, Alabama, in 1921" *J.D. Jackson, Birmingham Public Schools*

"The Bomb That Did Not Explode: The Civil Rights Story of Nina Miglionico of Birmingham," *Sam Rumore, Birmingham*

Noon Lunch, Holiday Inn

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Tours

- Camp Beaty/Brahan Spring Park
- St. Mary's of the Visitation Catholic Church
- Harrison Brother's Hardware
- Weeden House
- Church of the Nativity
- Additional TBA

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar and Reception, U. S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville

7:00 p.m. Annual Banquet, U. S. Space and Rocket Center, Hunstville
Keynote address by Dr. Roger Launius



SATURDAY, APRIL 14





8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Holiday Inn

9:00 a.m. Registration, Holiday Inn

9:45 a.m. General Session

10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

SESSION A:

"The Encyclopedia of Alabama and the Federal Road Initiative"
Claire Wilson, Encyclopedia of Alabama

"Archaeological Investigation of Samuel Moniac's Tavern on the Old Federal Road"
Raven Christopher, University of South Alabama

"Exploring the Old Federal Road through Photography" – *Mark Dauber, Dauber Gallery*

SESSION B:

"Red Sea' to Red Mountain: A Family History From Louisiana Slaveholding to Magic City Tolerance" – *Robert C. Stewart, Birmingham*

"Williamson R. W. Cobb, U.S. Congressman and Reluctant Confederate"
Ann B. Chambless, Scottsboro

"John Temple Graves II: A Birmingham Columnist and the Persistence of Progressive Rhetoric in the South" – *Haley E. Aaron, Georgia State University*

SESSION C

"Mary Norman Moore McCoy: 'A Force of Nature' at the Helm of Athens Female College"
Ann Marie Lang, Athens State University

"The Girls of the Social Welfare Courses: Training Social Workers at Alabama College in the Early Twentieth Century" – *Laurel Hitchcock, University of Montevallo*

"Foot Soldier of the Movement: Lola Mae Haynes Hendricks, Secretary of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights"
Jessica Eileen Parker Newman, University of Alabama at Birmingham

11:45 a.m. Annual Luncheon, Holiday Inn
Presidential Address by Steve Murray

Walking Tour of Mooresville

THURSDAY, APRIL 12 • 1:00-4:00 P.M. • $7 PER PERSON

Plan to arrive in north Alabama by early afternoon on Thursday so you can enjoy the hospitality and history of Mooresville, a town incorporated by the Alabama Territorial Legislature in November 1818. At the time, the town had a population of 62. Today, its 53 residents carefully preserve this window on the early settlement of Alabama.

When you arrive in Mooresville, follow the AHA signs to park at the Limestone Bay Trading Company, where you can check in, use restrooms, and enjoy some refreshments courtesy of proprietor Dee Green. (Lunch is served until 2:00, so consider arriving even earlier to sample their menu on your own, which you can find online at www.limestonebaytradingco.com.)

At Limestone Bay you will pick up a map and booklet for the self-guided walking tour. Public buildings that will be open include the 1821 Stagecoach Inn and Tavern, the 1839 Brick Church, and the 1840 United States Post Office, still in operation. (Buy some stamps while at the post office—every bit of business helps keep this historic branch open!) Also open will be Lyla's Little House, a sweets shop housed in a restored 1890s cottage.

Then stroll Mooresville's lanes to take in its beautiful architecture and gardens. Private homes will not be open for tours, but the illustrated booklet provides a great deal of information on the history of the structures.

Directions: From I-65, take Exit 340 to I-565 East toward Huntsville. Then immediately take Exit 2 and merge onto County Road 71. At the stop sign, turn right on Old Highway 20 and look for AHA signs on the left.



Brick Church



Stagecoach Inn and Tavern



United States Post Office



Lyla's Little House

Reception

ALABAMA CONSTITUTION VILLAGE

The annual Thursday evening reception will take place at Constitution Village, one of three locations comprising the EarlyWorks Museums of Huntsville. Constitution Village is a living history site that includes the cabinet shop where delegates to the Alabama Constitutional Convention met in 1819 to organize the first state government of Alabama. The shop is now preserved in a complex with other historic structures that include Clement Comer Clay's law office, a print shop, the federal land surveyor's office, a post office, and sheriff's residence, all from Huntsville's early history.

Join us from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by Huntsville's Olde Towne Brass Band, performing from their large repertoire of music dating to the War of 1812 and Civil War era.

Beginning at 7:30, walking tours of Huntsville's downtown and oldest residential neighborhoods will leave every few minutes. Availability is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot when you arrive at the reception on Thursday evening.

(Photos courtesy of The George F. Landegger Collection of Alabama Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.)









Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

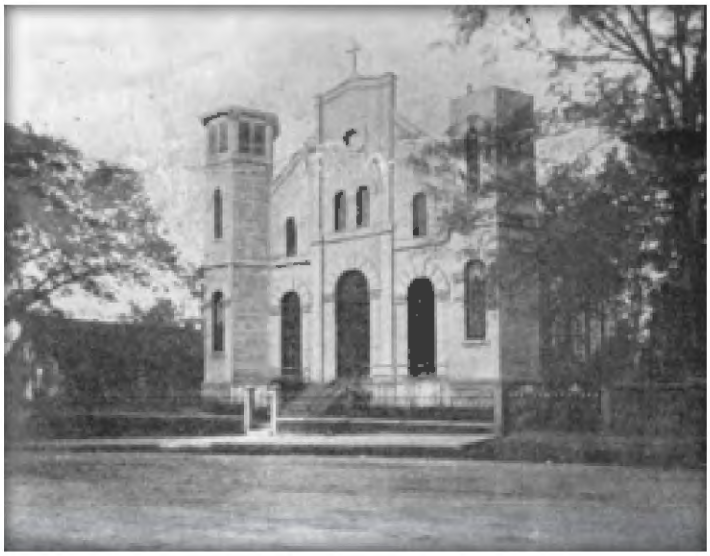
After an early attempt in 1836, the congregation of the Church of the Nativity was organized in December 1842. The name was chosen because of the approaching Christmas season. The official life of the parish began in May 1843, when it was admitted to the Diocese of Alabama. In 1845, a lot was purchased and construction began. The first church building was of brick, and the first service was held in August 1847.

The second building, the present main sanctuary, was constructed alongside the first, with the initial service on Easter Eve 1859. Called the finest example of Gothic Revival architecture in the South, the edifice has a nave and aisles lighted by windows of tracery, a vestry, and an organ chamber. The spire is 151 feet tall and the nave accommodates 500 people. There were 53 members of the congregation at its construction and its sole support came from renting of the pews. Offerings were not taken until 1864. Renting of the pews continued until 1913. The original church and present church stood side by side until 1878, when the original building was razed. The current sanctuary was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1990.

St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

Named in honor of Mary's visit to Elizabeth as described in Luke's Gospel, St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church was established by Father Jeremiah Trecy in July 1861. The church cornerstone was laid in October of that year, but construction was suspended during the Civil War. Father Trecy and parishioners were very involved in preparing hospital facilities and tending the wounded of both sides during the conflict. He later served as chaplain to General Rosecrans until 1868 and was present on the battlefields of Iuka, Corinth, and Stone River.

Following the war, construction resumed and the building was essentially finished by 1872, with the formal dedication by Bishop John Quinlan of Mobile on November 11, 1877. The Romanesque Revival church was built of native stone from nearby Monte Sano Mountain hauled by mule cart and wagon. In 1981 the church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.





Harrison Brothers Hardware

Harrison Brothers, located on South Side Square in Huntsville, is the oldest operating hardware store in Alabama. Founded in 1879 by brothers James and Daniel Harrison as a tobacco store on Jefferson Street, the business was moved to its present location in 1897.

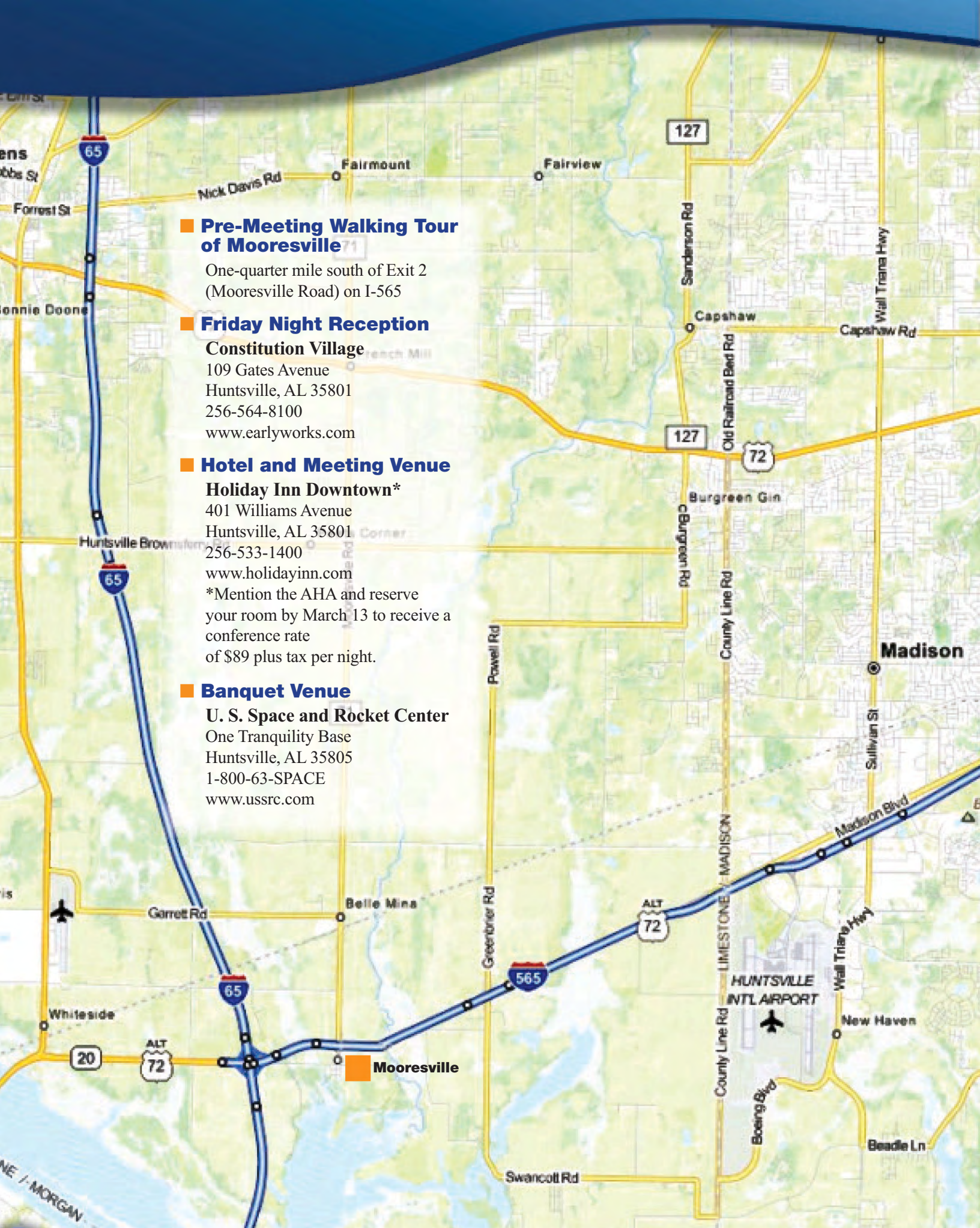
Robert S. Harrison, the youngest brother, opened the current store with older brother Daniel. Robert's sons, Daniel F. and John, took over during the 1950s, by which time the stock consisted primarily of hardware, furniture, and crockery. The younger set of brothers ignored modern merchandising techniques, thereby preserving the store in its turn-of-the-century condition.

The almost certain dismantling of the store following John's death in 1983 prompted the nonprofit Historic Huntsville Foundation to undertake the ultimate preservation challenge - to keep Harrison Brothers intact. Upon purchase of the property, the Foundation cleaned and inventoried, hired a manager, and reopened the doors in the fall of 1984 with a staff of dedicated volunteer clerks.

Harrison Brothers has gained popularity throughout the years and has rapidly become one of Huntsville's most popular tourist attractions. The buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The store was designated as one of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Save America's Treasures projects in 2001.





Pre-Meeting Walking Tour of Mooresville

One-quarter mile south of Exit 2 (Mooresville Road) on I-565

Friday Night Reception

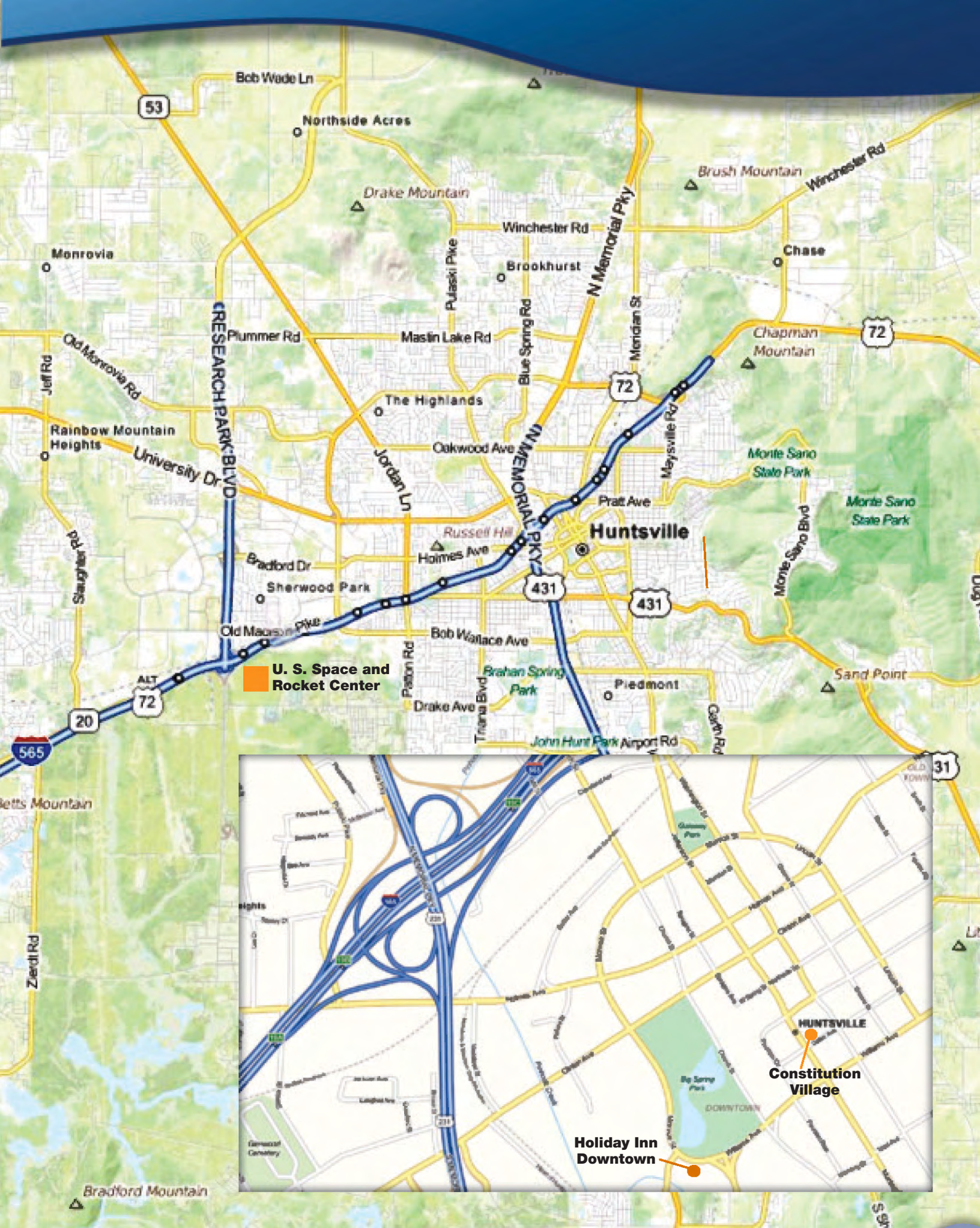
Constitution Village
109 Gates Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801
256-564-8100
www.earlyworks.com

Hotel and Meeting Venue

Holiday Inn Downtown*
401 Williams Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801
256-533-1400
www.holidayinn.com
*Mention the AHA and reserve your room by March 13 to receive a conference rate of $89 plus tax per night.

Banquet Venue

U. S. Space and Rocket Center
One Tranquility Base
Huntsville, AL 35805
1-800-63-SPACE
www.ussrc.com


Bob Wade Ln
53
Northside Acres
Drake Mountain
Brush Mountain
Winchester Rd
Monrovia
Winchester Rd
Brookhurst
Chase
Pulaski Pike
N Memorial Pky
Meridian St
Blue Spring Rd
RESEARCH PARK BLVD
Plummer Rd
Maslin Lake Rd
Chapman Mountain
72
Old Monrovia Rd
Jeff Rd
The Highlands
Rainbow Mountain Heights
University Dr
Oakwood Ave
Jordan Ln
MEMORIAL PKY
Maysville Rd
Monte Sano State Park
Pratt Ave
Huntsville
Russell Hill
Slaughter Rd
Bradford Dr
Holmes Ave
Sherwood Park
431
Monte Sano Blvd
Old Madison Pike
Bob Wallace Ave
Patton Rd
U. S. Space and Rocket Center
ALT
72
Brahan Spring Park
Piedmont
Sand Point
20
Drake Ave
Triana Blvd
565
John Hunt Park
Airport Rd
Garth Rd
31
Betts Mountain
Zierdt Rd
HUNTSVILLE
Constitution Village
Holiday Inn Downtown
DOWNTOWN
Bradford Mountain

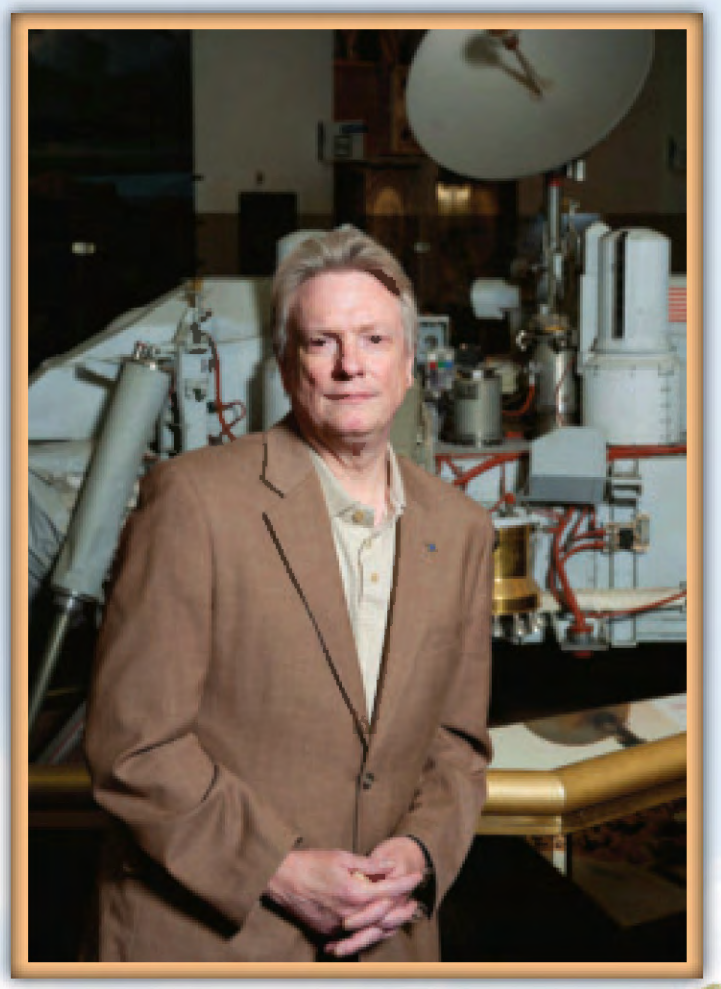
NASA Historian to Address Members at Annual Banquet

Sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society

Dr. Roger D. Launius will deliver the keynote address at the 2012 annual banquet, held this year in the magnificent Grand Hall of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Launius is senior curator in the Division of Space History at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., where he was division chair 2003-2007. Between 1990 and 2002 he served as chief historian of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A graduate of Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa, he received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, in 1982.

Launius is the author or editor of more than twenty books on aerospace history, including most recently *Globalizing Polar Science: Reconsidering the International Polar and Geophysical Years* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010); *Smithsonian Atlas of Space Exploration* (HarperCollins, 2009); *Robots in Space: Technology, Evolution, and Interplanetary Travel* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).

He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Academy of Astronautics, and the American Astronautical Society, and associate fellow of the AIAA. He also served as a consultant to the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board in 2003 and presented the prestigious Harmon Memorial Lecture on the history of national security space policy at the United States Air Force Academy in 2006. He is frequently consulted by the electronic and print media for his views on space issues, and has been a guest commentator on National Public Radio and all the major television network news programs.





SACRED HARP SHAPE NOTE SINGING

Featured at Saturday Breakfast Program

David Ivey will discuss the history and current state of Sacred Harp shape note singing in Alabama. The practice of this acapella singing tradition that dates to colonial America has experienced an amazing rebirth across the United States and has even spread to Europe in the last 25 years. Alabama has played a central role in this new growth with its historic singing conventions, including the National Convention held annually in Birmingham. Camp Fasola, a unique summer camp for teaching Sacred Harp music and traditions, will be held for the tenth consecutive year with sessions in Winston County and Anniston. National attention was focused on North Alabama Sacred Harp singers in 2002 as a result of the recording of two songs for the soundtrack of the movie *Cold Mountain* under the guidance of director Anthony Menghella and music producer T-Bone Burnett. More singers live in Alabama than any other state.



David Ivey, a native of Henagar, Alabama, is a lifetime Sacred Harp singer. He has taught Sacred Harp singing schools across the United States and in Europe since 1985. He is co-founder and director of Camp Fasola, a summer camp for teaching Sacred Harp music and traditions, and he has been awarded numerous grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts for teaching Sacred Harp singing.



NEW BRITAIN. C. M. 45

"And David the king came and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, O Lord?"—1 Chron. 17: 16. "According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions."—Ps. 51: 1.

JOHN NEWTON, 1780. Key of C Major.

1. A - maz-ing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind but now I see. see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re-lieved; How pre-cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be-lieved! -lieved.
3. Thro' ma - ny dan-gers, toils and snares, I have al-read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home. home.
4. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en-dures. -dures.
5. The earth shall soon dis-solve like snow, The sun for-bear to shine; But God, who called me here be - low, Will be for - ev - er mine. mine.

The original title of this hymn in "Olney's Selections" is "Faith's Review and Expectation." John Newton lived in wickedness a long time, but finally turned to the work of his Lord and Master, and entered the ministry, and was a power as a preacher, poet, and hymn writer. He expresses his feelings at the time he wrote the hymn, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!" He was born in 1725 and died in 1807. He was a minister in the Church of England.

We have been unable to find the name of the author of the above tune. There are numerous claimants of it, but after investigation there are doubts as to who is really the author. The tune appears on page 8 of "Southern Harmony," by William Walker, in 1835. It is believed that it was composed early in the nineteenth century. The name of "New Britain" is suggestive of the source of the origin of the tune, but no author is given in any of the books we have examined of the music.

Copyright, 1909, by J. S. James.

SUPPLICATION. L. M.

"I will cry unto God most high."—Ps. 57: 2.

ISAAC WATTS, 1719. Key of A Minor.

O Thou who hear'st when sinners cry, Tho' all my crimes before Thee lie, Be-hold them not with an-gry look, But blot their mem-'ry from Thy book.

The above tune and words appear in the Fifty-first Psalm, Watts; "Southern Harmony," 1835, page 51; also in "Missouri Harmony," in 1837, page 26. The words appear in the "Baptist Hymnal," 1833, No. 296; page 95 of Watts' "Hymns," 1719. We find no trace of the author of the tune. It was published in the "Sacred Harp," by White and King, from 1844 to 1869.

Camp Beaty/Brahan Spring Park Historic Marker to be Dedicated during Meeting

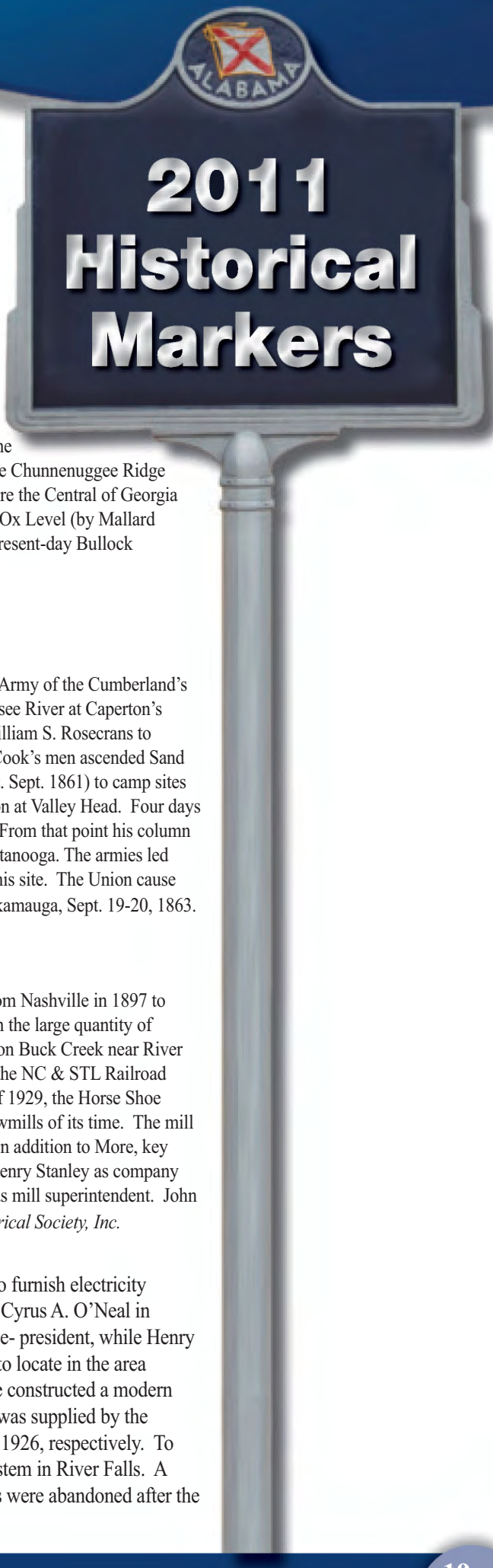
On Friday, April 13, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society will dedicate a marker in honor of a newly discovered War of 1812 encampment at Brahan Springs Park located at 500 Drake Ave. in Huntsville. This lively park is built around a reservoir fed by a deep underground spring.

The text of the marker reads:

Brahan Spring Park, formerly Beaty's Spring, was the site of Camp Beaty, the encampment of Andrew Jackson's army of volunteers and militia after their celebrated non-stop march of "32 miles in 5 hours" from Fayetteville, Tennessee on October 11, 1813. The urgency of the forced march was in response to a threatened attack on the city of Huntsville by a war party of the Creek Nation. Jackson had previously dispatched Colonel John Coffee's Second Regiment of Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Riflemen, including David Crockett, to scout the area and to restore confidence to the frontier.

The threatened attack never took place and the army, nearly 4,000 strong, moved on to being the campaign that became the Creek War of 1813-814, a part of the War of 1812. Camp Beaty served as a staging and supply area throughout the War with rent being paid to Captain Robert Beaty. Beaty had purchased this land from the Federal Government on August 28, 1809, and later sold it to John Brahan in 1819. The property changed hands numerous times until 1899 when the Merrimack Manufacturing Company purchased the site. Merrimack's successor, Huntsville Manufacturing Company, deeded the land to the City of Huntsville in 1951, to be used as a city park.





BULLOCK COUNTY

Three Notch Road Side 1

Built by U.S. Army engineers over the summer of 1824, Three Notch Road has served as Bullock County's major transportation route throughout its history. It was constructed to facilitate military communication between Pensacola in Florida and Ft. Mitchell in Alabama near the Georgia border. The 233-mile path through a virtual wilderness was known as Road No. 6 in official reports, but was known and named locally for the distinctive horizontal notches blazed into trees by advancing surveyors as they marked the route for the builders who followed. Capt. Daniel Burch oversaw construction of the road which was wide enough to allow "carriages, carts, wagons, &c." and included "substantial wooden bridges" over those streams which were not so wide as to require ferries to cross. *Sponsored by the Bullock County Historical Societ*

Three Notch Road Side 2

Three Notch Road was the major thoroughfare for those coming from Georgia into present-day Bullock County when eastern Alabama was opened to American settlement with the removal of the Indians. The road entered the county from the north near Guerryton, crossed the Chunnenuggee Ridge at Enon, and continued south to Ft. Watson, as the community of Three Notch was named before the Central of Georgia Railroad came through. From there the road continued southwest through the communities of Ox Level (by Mallard Chapel), Indian Creek, Blues Old Stand, and Sellers Crossroads before exiting the county on present-day Bullock County Road 19, near the Sandfield community in Pike County.
Sponsored by the Bullock County Historical Society

DEKALB COUNTY

The Road to Chickamauga

On Aug. 29, 1863, the Union XX Army Corps under Maj. Gen. Alexander M. McCook and the Army of the Cumberland's cavalry under Maj. Gen. David S. Stanley broke camp at Stevenson, AL and crossed the Tennessee River at Caperton's Ferry. This force of 20,000 troops was one of three columns dispatched by Union Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans to compel a Confederate retreat from Chattanooga, TN, the transportation hub of this region. McCook's men ascended Sand Mountain and marched east on Caperton's Ferry Road, past Chestnut Grove Baptist Church (est. Sept. 1861) to camp sites along Town Creek. On September 4th this column reached the plantation of Winston O. Winston at Valley Head. Four days later, McCook sent his men over Lookout Mountain at Winston's Gap into Broomtown Valley. From that point his column could intercept Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army of Tennessee as it withdrew from Chattanooga. The armies led by Rosecrans and Bragg eventually clashed on Chickamauga Creek, about thirty miles east of this site. The Union cause suffered its most significant defeat in the Western Theater of the Civil War in the Battle of Chickamauga, Sept. 19-20, 1863.

COVINGTON COUNTY

The Horse Shoe Lumber Company Side 1

E.L. More, president of the A&F Division of the L&N Railroad, arrived in River Falls from Nashville in 1897 to spearhead the construction of a branch line of the L&N. Recognizing a business opportunity in the large quantity of virgin longleaf pine timberland in the area, he purchased a half-interest in a small mill located on Buck Creek near River Falls. He was encouraged by his long-time friend and mentor Major E.C. Lewis, president of the NC & STL Railroad and L&N board member. From this beginning until its closure following the disastrous flood of 1929, the Horse Shoe Lumber Company along the river and near this marker was one of the largest, most modern sawmills of its time. The mill operated an extensive logging rail system using as many as eight locomotives over the years. In addition to More, key mill personnel included his long-time associate Cyrus A. O'Neal as company vice president, Henry Stanley as company secretary, and E.W. Arwood as private secretary to Mr. More. Gus Henderson of Andalusia was mill superintendent. John Miles Cooper, also of Andalusia, served as woods foreman. *Sponsored by the Covington Historical Society, Inc.*

River Falls Power Company Side 2

E.L. More organized the River Falls Power Company in 1920 to provide a grid system to furnish electricity to nine counties along the FL/AL state line. Leslie Cheek of Nashville joined More and Cyrus A. O'Neal in providing the start-up capital. More became the company's president and O'Neal its vice- president, while Henry Stanley served as secretary. The arrival of electricity served as an invitation to industry to locate in the area and More's own Horse Shoe Lumber Company was one of the earliest customers. More constructed a modern all-electric sawmill on the same site where his old mill had burned in 1924. The power was supplied by the company's Gantt and Point "A" dams built upstream on the Conecuh River in 1924 and 1926, respectively. To ensure uninterrupted electrical service, a large auxiliary steam plant was added to the system in River Falls. A third dam up the Patsalagi was envisioned for the future by the company, but those plans were abandoned after the 1929 flood. *Sponsored by the Covington Historical Society, Inc.*

2011 Historical Markers

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Courtland Army Air Field (CAAF): Beginnings Side 1

Following the onset of WWII the Army Air Corps initiated an ambitious pilot training program. During its most active period, this program would train over 100,000 pilots per year. To meet this demand, more than 450 air fields were constructed or improved across the US. North Alabama was considered a desirable location for a large training base because it possessed a climate that permitted year-round flight instruction and enjoyed low congestion of airways. Of three potential North Alabama locations surveyed, the Courtland area was considered the best overall choice. In April 1942, the site was officially selected through a board headed by Colonel Aubrey Hornsby and Lt Colonel Joseph Duckworth. Within an 8-month period, runways, roads, and most of the buildings were constructed on 2200 acres of land acquired from the Bynum and Shackelford estates. Four smaller auxiliary air fields were built nearby for flight emergencies and to provide greater training flexibility. CAAF was activated on 14 Dec 1942 under the command of the Southeast Air Corps Training Center. The first cadet class arrived on 26 Jan 1943. *Sponsored by the Courtland Historical Association*

Courtland Army Air Field (CAAF): Flight Schools Side 2

Cadet pilots attended four schools: Preflight, Primary, Basic and Advanced. Courtland Army Air Field began service as a Basic Flight School. Signal Corps training supplemented the flight school. The Basic Flight School included ground school classroom facilities in addition to flight instruction. Cadet performance at Basic determined progressive paths toward advanced fighter or bomber training, or involved transfer to other schools that addressed topics such as navigation and aerial photography. The arrangement of four interlocking 5000-ft runways made CAAF an ideal site to accommodate both day and night training schedules 7 days per week and in a variety of wind conditions. Up to 700 cadets and 240 aircraft were posted at CAAF. The primary Basic Flight School training aircraft was the single-engine BT-13A Valiant. As Air Corps training needs evolved, the Basic Flight School was replaced by a Four-Engine Specialized School in September 1944. This involved the transfer to Courtland of personnel and B-24 Liberator bombers from Chanute Field, Illinois. Twin-engine trainers such as the Beechcraft AT-10 and the Cessna UC-78 also saw service at CAAF. *Sponsored by the Courtland Historical Association*

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Courtland Army Air Field (CAAF): Facilities Side 1

At its greatest strength, CAAF was home to 4600 officers, enlisted servicemen, and cadets. During the war years it was the largest population center within Lawrence County. Over 370 structures were constructed, including aircraft hangars, operations buildings, warehouses, barracks, mess halls, maintenance facilities, water supply/sewage treatment facilities, a weather station, and a hospital. To help accommodate the sudden influx of personnel during construction and following activation, locals opened their homes to servicemen and their wives. Electricity was supplied by TVA, and a railroad spur was constructed to accept delivery of materials and fuel. A small arms range and a chemical/gas chamber were onsite to support training requirements. Other facilities that provided day-to-day needs and recreation included a PX, officers/enlisted clubs, a chapel, and two theaters. An Army band posted at the base also toured local communities to boost morale and support War Bond drives. As schedules allowed, servicemen took advantage of leisure opportunities on the nearby Tennessee River. *Sponsored by the Courtland Historical Association*

Courtland Army Air Field (CAFF): Deactivation Side 2

Demand for pilot training fell during 1943-44, and many airfields were gradually deactivated nationwide. As an emergency temporary construction, CAAF was also slated for closure, and was officially deactivated on 30 June 1945. Over the next three decades, most of the buildings were removed or destroyed. By request of the Ala Air National Guard, a steel-framed hangar was moved to the Birmingham Municipal Airport around 1950. Until the mid-1980s the CAAF property was used as a poultry farm, an auto race course, an auction facility, and a home for crop duster aircraft. Proposed uses included a horse race track, a coal gasification plant, and a prison, but none of those materialized. Lawrence County acquired the land in 1985 for use as an industrial park and a public airport was activated using two of the original runways. The 1990s saw a rebirth of the site with the advent of several light industrial businesses and a Lockheed-Martin missile assembly plant. US Army aviation returned to the site when the Redstone Test Center began using the property for helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft testing in 2010. *Sponsored by the Courtland Historical Association*

MARENGO COUNTY

Bethel Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Following the Civil War and emancipation, newly freed African Americans, who had worshiped in the Bethel Church in McKinley while enslaved, established their own Bethel Church in a wooden house at the rear of the current church site. In the mid-1880s, this black Bethel Church became Bethel Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Elizabeth Borden deeded five acres of land to the church in 1894, and Rev. J.A. Lawson led the effort to erect a new building the same year. The structure was bricked during the pastorate of I.C. Acoff in 1936. Until the mid 1950s, McKinley School for African American elementary grade students was attached to the church. Original members of the church are buried in the church yard cemetery.

MARENGO COUNTY

Paulling Place Cemetery

This African American Cemetery was located on the plantation of William K. Paulling (est 1836). Oral histories given by the surrounding African American community indicate that Paulling Place Cemetery has been in continuous use since the days of slavery. It became the cemetery for the neighboring St. John's Baptist Church after that church was established in 1867. There are at least 175 unmarked graves, identifiable only by depressions in the ground. Surnames of those interred include: Bell, Harris, Johnson, Nelson, Robinson, Staten, Witherspoon and Wright. Adjacent to the Paulling Place Cemetery is the Ernest Everett Hale family cemetery. Hale came to Marengo County in 1925 as County Extension Agent and aspired to own a Canebrake plantation. He returned in 1951 to purchase Paulling Place. He and others of the family are buried in the cemetery which is maintained, like the plantation, by his descendants.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Side 1

Elijah Cook, Educator, Businessman, Lawmaker

Born a slave in Wetumpka in 1833, Elijah Cook became a leader in Montgomery's African American community. Credited with helping to establish the city's first school for blacks in the basement of the Old Ship AME Zion Church in 1865, he also selected the site for Swayne College (later Booker T. Washington School) that opened in 1868. In 1887, he assisted in posting the $10,000 surety bond to relocate the Lincoln School of Marion (later Alabama State University) to Montgomery. After serving in the legislature from 1874 to 1876, he opened an undertaking firm across from city hall in the early 1880s. *Sponsored by the City of Montgomery*

City of Montgomery v. Rosa Parks Side 2

The trial for seamstress Rosa M. Parks was held on Monday, 5 December, in the Recorder's Court of the City of Montgomery. (The room was later the site of meetings of the city council.) The trial began at 9:00 and continued for about 30 minutes. Parks and her attorney were accompanied by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, E. D. Nixon, and hundreds of interested blacks. Judge John B. Scott found Parks guilty of disorderly conduct and fined her $14. She lost on appeal on 22 February 1956, but the Parks case of 1955 ignited a one-day boycott of the city buses that eventually led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Under Browder v. Gayle, the boycott ended on 20 December 1956. *Sponsored by the City of Montgomery*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Oaks Plantation

House built ca. 1830s by Alexander Carter on small land holding. Increasing fortunes led to a 1780-acre diversified and innovative plantation. Oak trees planted on either side of front drive led to its name. During WWII, an auxiliary landing strip, called Mt. Meigs Field, was built on the land by Army Corp of Engineers, and was used for training by American, French, and British aviation cadets from Gunter Field, as well as by "Tuskegee Airmen" from Moton Field. Prominent families who owned The Oaks included those of Edward Pierce, E.T. Davis, William Nicrosi, Price McLemore, Tine Davis, Wayne Dawson.
Sponsored by East Montgomery County Historical Society

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

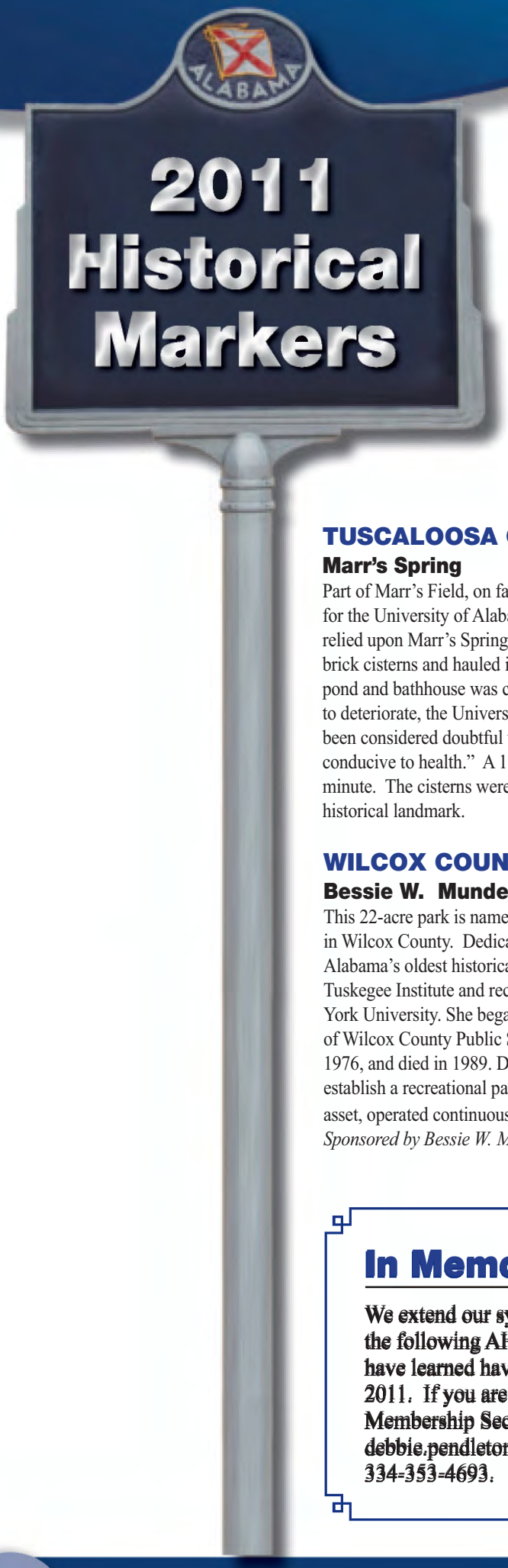
Site of the Cook Springs Hotel,1884-1954

Near this site, and founded by entrepreneur Lafayette Cooke, for whom the community of Cook Springs was named, the hotel resort, operated from 1884 to 1954, was a grand example of mineral-springs resorts developed around the nation during that era. A combination of health retreat and entertainment destination, the hotel catered to upper-middle class and wealthy patrons. Guests arrived by train directly in front of the hotel. Patrons enjoyed a wide range of recreational activities and gained alleged health benefits by drinking the mineral-rich water. In 1930, Lafayette Cooke donated 1,600 acres and his hotel to the American School of Evangelism to be used for good deeds.

TALLADEGA COUNTY

Refuge Cemetery

In April 1950, Alabama's last two living Confederate veterans met here to discuss shared experiences of the Civil War. Local resident Col. Pleasant 'Riggs' Crump was visited by Gen. James Moore of Selma, commander of the Alabama chapter of the United Confederate Veterans. Present at the surrender at Appomattox 85 years earlier, Crump had returned to the Lincoln area after the Civil War. He was a member of the Refuge Baptist Church which he served as deacon for 71 years, and was buried in this cemetery upon his death in 1951 at the age of 104.
Sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372, Birmingham



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Calvary Baptist Church

Organized January 1, 1911, 77 of its 79 charter members came from the First Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa. The church was originally named Sage A. Monnish Memorial Baptist Church in memory of the son of charter member F.W. Monnish, who donated the lot and first building adjacent to the northwest corner of the Evergreen Cemetery. A new building was begun in 1925 just west of the old church on lots given by Mrs. F.W. Monnish, who asked that the church be renamed Calvary Baptist. Nearly completed, the new structure burned on December 5, 1925, along with most of the old church. A new, rebuilt sanctuary was dedicated exactly one year later. The church had strong outreach to university students and experienced unprecedented growth under the leadership of Dr. Horace G. Williams (1933-1960) and Dr. Allan R. Watson (1960-1984). First Fellowship of Christian Athletes for Alabama organized at Calvary in 1964. *Calvary sponsored missions which became churches in the area: South Highlands, 1953; Skyland, 1967, and Lakewood, 1986. Centennial 2011*

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Marr's Spring

Part of Marr's Field, on farmland owned by William Marr, this spring was a major factor in the selection of this site for the University of Alabama campus in 1827. From its opening in 1831 well into the 20th century, the institution relied upon Marr's Spring as its principal water source. Water flowing from hillside crevices was collected in these brick cisterns and hauled in buckets to the rooms of students and throughout the campus. A dam for a swimming pond and bathhouse was constructed, supported by the spring and cisterns. By the mid-1880s, as the cisterns began to deteriorate, the University considered repairs until deciding, as the 1889 trustees' minutes recorded, "it has always been considered doubtful whether the plunging and swimming in the very cold water so directly from the spring is conducive to health." A 1955 survey found that Marr's Spring yielded 100 gallons of good, clear odorless water per minute. The cisterns were renovated in 2010 in an effort to restore the original beauty of this University of Alabama historical landmark.

WILCOX COUNTY

Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park, Founded 1959

This 22-acre park is named for its founder, Bessie W. Munden, a noted African American educator and civic leader in Wilcox County. Dedicated on October 25, 1959, Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park is significant as one of Alabama's oldest historically black parks. Ms. Munden, born in Marion, Perry County in 1905, graduated from Tuskegee Institute and received her Masters of Arts degree from Alabama State College. She also studied at New York University. She began teaching in Wilcox County at Millers Ferry in 1928 and eventually became Supervisor of Wilcox County Public Schools. She retired from her last position as a teacher/counselor at Camden Academy in 1976, and died in 1989. During her tenure as Supervisor, she worked with other local African American educators to establish a recreational park for African Americans during the era of segregation. The park, an important community asset, operated continuously for thirty years before closing in 1989. Restoration of the historic park began in 2004. *Sponsored by Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park, Inc.*

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to the families of the following AHA members, whom we have learned have passed away since January 2011. If you are aware of others, please notify Membership Secretary Debbie Pendleton at debbie.pendleton@archives.alabama.gov or 334-353-4693.

2012 *Wes Newton*

2011 *Eunice R. Dobbs*
Bradley Hale
T.J. Ingram
Clayton Kyser
Jan F. Smith
Kathryn Tucker Windham



Young Huntsville Native on Journey to Discover Alabama History

I am on a quest to find every historical marker in Alabama and have my pictures taken with it. An odd quest, I know, but a fun one all the same. The whole thing started with the Valhermoso Springs Historical Marker on Highway 36 in Morgan County. I passed this marker many times while traveling between Huntsville and I-65. I had always wanted to stop, but no one would ever pull the car over for me. One day my sister emailed me a very depressing story – someone had hit the marker with their car and stolen it. I was so upset that something that I had always wanted to investigate was no longer there. But then, months after the sign disappeared, we were driving by and – low and behold – it was back! I was so excited that I made my sister promise that we would stop by it on the way back to Auburn from Huntsville. So on February 13, 2011, my quest began.

After some time, I realized that my friends on Facebook were probably sick of me invading their news feed with my historical marker pictures. So, I decided to start scrapbooking my pictures. Now, with two scrapbook volumes documenting 120 historical markers to date, I am doing pretty well on my quest, though I have a long way to go. I am grateful to have family and friends who fully support my unique dream. They have graciously pulled over on car trips to let me grab a picture with a marker on the side of the road and have even spotted some for me and stopped without me having to ask. They have devoted their entire day to going through my researched list and trying to find every marker in a particular city. Some members of both the Theta Lambda chapter of Tau Beta Sigma and the Auburn University Marching Band Flag Line (both of which I am a member) met me at markers near the Auburn campus and took pictures with me.



Julia Stuckey, originally from Huntsville, Ala., is a junior at Auburn University studying finance.

I will be working on this project for many years to come, but it is something that I enjoy doing and something that, I think, is worthwhile. It is a chance to learn Alabama history while traveling all around the state. I look forward to visiting markers in your area of the state!

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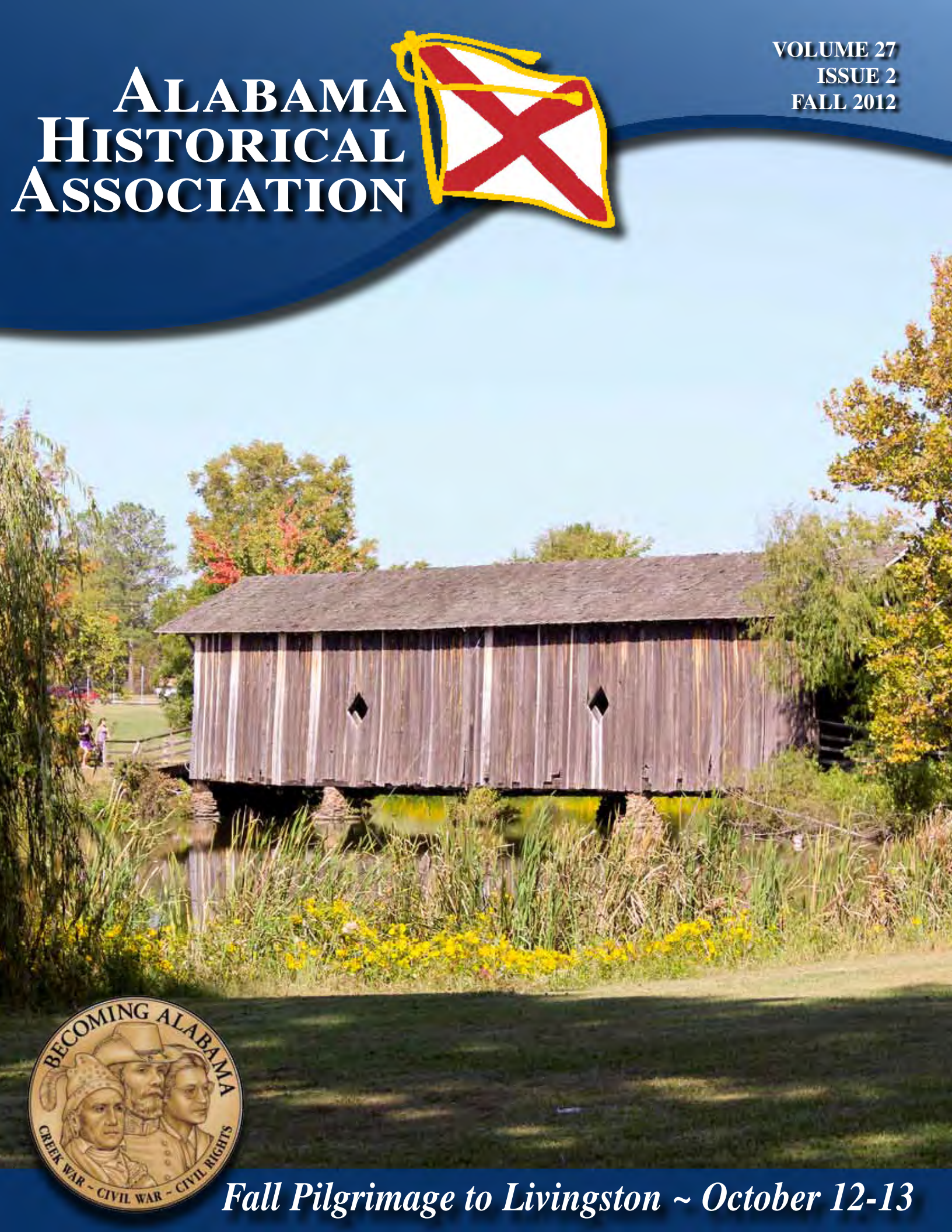
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



SAVE THE DATE: The annual fall pilgrimage will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The Center for the Study of Black Belt at the University of West Alabama will be our host!

Alabama Historical Association

VOLUME 27
ISSUE 2
FALL 2012



Fall Pilgrimage to Livingston ~ October 12-13

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Cover image: The Alamuchee-Bellamy Covered Bridge now covers the Duck Pond along the UWA Nature Trail. Image courtesy of the University of West Alabama (UWA).

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Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Marty Olliff

It is a great honor to serve as your president for 2012–2013; as my first official communication with you, I'm pleased to announce that the Fall Pilgrimage will take place in Livingston on October 12 and 13 and that the 2013 meeting will occur in Eufaula, April 11–13.

I hope I can fill the large shoes left by my predecessors. I'd like to extend my thanks to Immediate Past President Steve Murray and Past President Kathryn Braund for working so diligently behind the scenes to effect a smooth transition of *The Alabama Review* offices from Auburn University to the University of West Alabama. Because of their good work, the *Review* is stable.

This happy situation allows the president to envision the future, and I have called for an ambitious agenda to move into that future without discarding the characteristics that endear the AHA to us all. My agenda includes change, but the changes I propose add to rather than replace what you have come to expect from the AHA.

The most obvious—and emblematic—of these changes is apparent in the Call for Papers (available on page 17). I have asked the Program Committee to include a call for panel proposals in addition to the traditional individual papers. We hope to add one or two thematic panels to the program that continue our participation in "Becoming Alabama." The Program Committee is at the mercy of whoever participates, so please make its job tough by sending in your excellent paper proposals.

Other changes that add to rather than detract from our traditions concern membership initiatives and cooperation with similar cultural organizations in the state. As a membership-driven association, the AHA depends on keeping its membership list healthy and expanding. We have suffered some membership loss because of the recession and because we might not be as good at asking people to join as we could be. Secretary Mark Wilson initiated a membership letter-writing campaign at the June 19 board meeting, making use of the wonderful new membership pamphlet he designed in May. We look for a good response from this solicitation. The Board has other ideas, but it is happy to hear yours as well. Please contact me with your thoughts.

Similarly, the AHA wants to strengthen its connections with the local historical societies, large or small, in the state. Their members already have a deep appreciation for history and are a natural "fit" as AHA members, as many of us are also members of local groups. The association has, I believe, an opportunity and obligation to work with local historical societies to strengthen all of us and promote the important place of history as a topic in Alabama. We can decry the defunding of historical agencies by the state and the demise of Alabama history—and history itself—in school curricula, but our *cri de coeur* is not enough. While we advocate for proper consideration of the past from the top-down, we also must build an alternative infrastructure to support history from the bottom-up. Consequently I have asked Danny Crownover of the Etowah Heritage Museum in Gadsden to chair an ad hoc committee to see what the AHA can do for and with local societies. We'd love to have your input on this issue in particular.

In this time of financial pressure on all cultural heritage associations, it is incumbent on the AHA to reach out to other state-level groups who share our mission of promoting the study of the past into the future. Can we share information? Can we share interests? Can we help



Visitors stroll the University of West Alabama Prairie Restoration area viewing purple prairie clover, pinnate prairie coneflowers, standing cypress, scaly blazing star, and compass plants as they learn about the unique geologic setting that provides a foundation for Black Land Prairies, as well as the periodic fires that are essential for rejuvenating the supporting flora. AHA members can explore all of this at the Fall Pilgrimage. Image courtesy of UWA.



The Posey Parking Lot's new historical marker being unveiled in a ceremony in downtown Montgomery. Eddie and Dorothy Posey's business "served as a transportation hub in the midst of the city's black business district. Over 200 sedans and station wagons, dubbed 'rolling churches' since many were owned and operated by African American churches, shuttled some 2,000 black passengers daily" during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Image courtesy of the AHA.

each other provide training and other opportunities for our members? I've asked T. R. Henderson of Headland to chair another ad hoc committee to seek answers to these questions. He will begin by compiling a list of such organizations in order to make contact and begin discussion. We hope to see results throughout the year.

Advanced computer technology opens a new world of communication options to us as we work with local historical societies and similar state-wide organizations. But it has also greatly expanded the way we communicate with each other. The AHA is moving into the digital age step by step, without replacing any of its traditional "hard-copy" communications. Here is where addition rather than replacement occurs. The AHA has had a website for quite a while, and we are committed to not only maintaining it but also enhancing its content.

You have been able to find recent newsletters and general information on the website, but in the future you will be able to find the newsletter archives and information on past presidents and the past members after whom our awards are named (thanks, Anna Henderson Martin!). We have begun a new program, the AHA Podcast Series, which at this time contains interviews with our Howard, Colby, and Kuykendall Award winners from 2012 and hope to expand it with more interviews and short videos in the future.

Finally I want to thank the officers, Board, and committee members who take the lead in continuing the good work of the AHA. You can get more involved by letting the officers know of your interest in joining the board or the various committees. Feel free to contact me at molliff@troy.edu.



The Sumter County Courthouse in Livingston. Image courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery.

Welcome to Livingston, Site of the Fall Pilgrimage

The land now host to Livingston, the University of West Alabama (UWA), and the many historic structures of Sumter County once belonged to the Choctaw Indians. The first white settlers in the area were predominantly French soldiers and traders stationed at Fort Tombecbe on the Tombigbee river, about ten miles away from modern-day Livingston. The fort was established to strengthen France's claims to the area and serve as a staging point for French military actions in support of their Choctaw allies. The fort was never attacked during the French and Indian War, but was forsaken in 1763 after the territory was ceded to Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris. The fort was then all but abandoned by the British, was handed over to the Spanish in 1794, and claimed by the Americans in 1797.

American immigrants officially began settling in the area after the Choctaws ceded the territory in the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. They came mostly from North Carolina, but also from South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and even some northern states. According to local legend, water was in short supply in the area and these early arrivals settled by a spring about two blocks away from what is now the Sumter County Courthouse. The street is still called Spring Street.

With the Choctaws removed to western territories, a commission was formed in 1833 to organize Sumter County and select a county seat. Livingston was named after Edward Livingston, a famous jurist and statesman who drafted the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825. The first surveyors came in to survey, lay off, and sell lots in 1834. On January 10, 1835, the Legislature of Alabama passed an act incorporating the town of Livingston, and the town's first newspaper, *The Voice of Sumter*, debuted on March 1, 1836.

The town and county were growing. The first courthouse was built of logs at the intersection of Spring and West Main (now Chapman) streets in Livingston. By May 1839 a map of Livingston, as surveyed into lots by William G. Myers, was placed into the county records. That same year the county constructed a frame courthouse to replace the log structure, but it burned in 1901—a fate common to Alabama's early courthouses (see Anne Feathers' entertaining "Catfights and Coffins: Stories of Alabama Courthouses" in the July 2008 *Alabama Review*). The probate judge's office was the only structure to survive the fire. The present courthouse foundation was laid on July 9, 1902.

The Sumter County Alabama Chamber of Commerce provided a copy of an article describing the early years of the town that appeared in the *Sumter County Journal*. While the author of the following sketch of Livingston from 1834 until about 1837 is unknown, the description is evocative:

> "Livingston in 1834 was a village of rough log huts with wooden chimneys; many of these had only the ground for a floor. The people were a rude, uncultured class, suited to their surroundings. The Court House was built of large hewed logs, the cracks unstopped, the door at one end of the house and the Judge's stand at the other end. . . . [It] was used once a month for church purposes, a Methodist Circuit rider officiating and occasionally stray preachers of other denominations. . . .
>
> There were three or four stores containing a miscellaneous collection of dry goods, groceries, hardware, and in short any and every thing which the settlers of a new country might want. These goods were hauled from Moscow on the Bigbee River, 14 miles over roads that sometimes had no bottom. The hauling of these goods was the beginning of many a poor man's fortune.
>
> Two Doggeries, as they were then called, stood about where the Foster house now stands. They were built with their gables projecting over the street, making a shelter under which there was always a crowd, often making the poor Indian drunk to have some fun, which sometimes ended in bloodshed. . . .



Fort Tombecbe, as drawn by French engineer Ignace Broutin in March 1737. Image courtesy of UWA.



Early stores in Livingston. On the left is "the old saddle shop of Wayman Staples." On the right is a store built by W. J. Nichols. ~1920s image courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery.

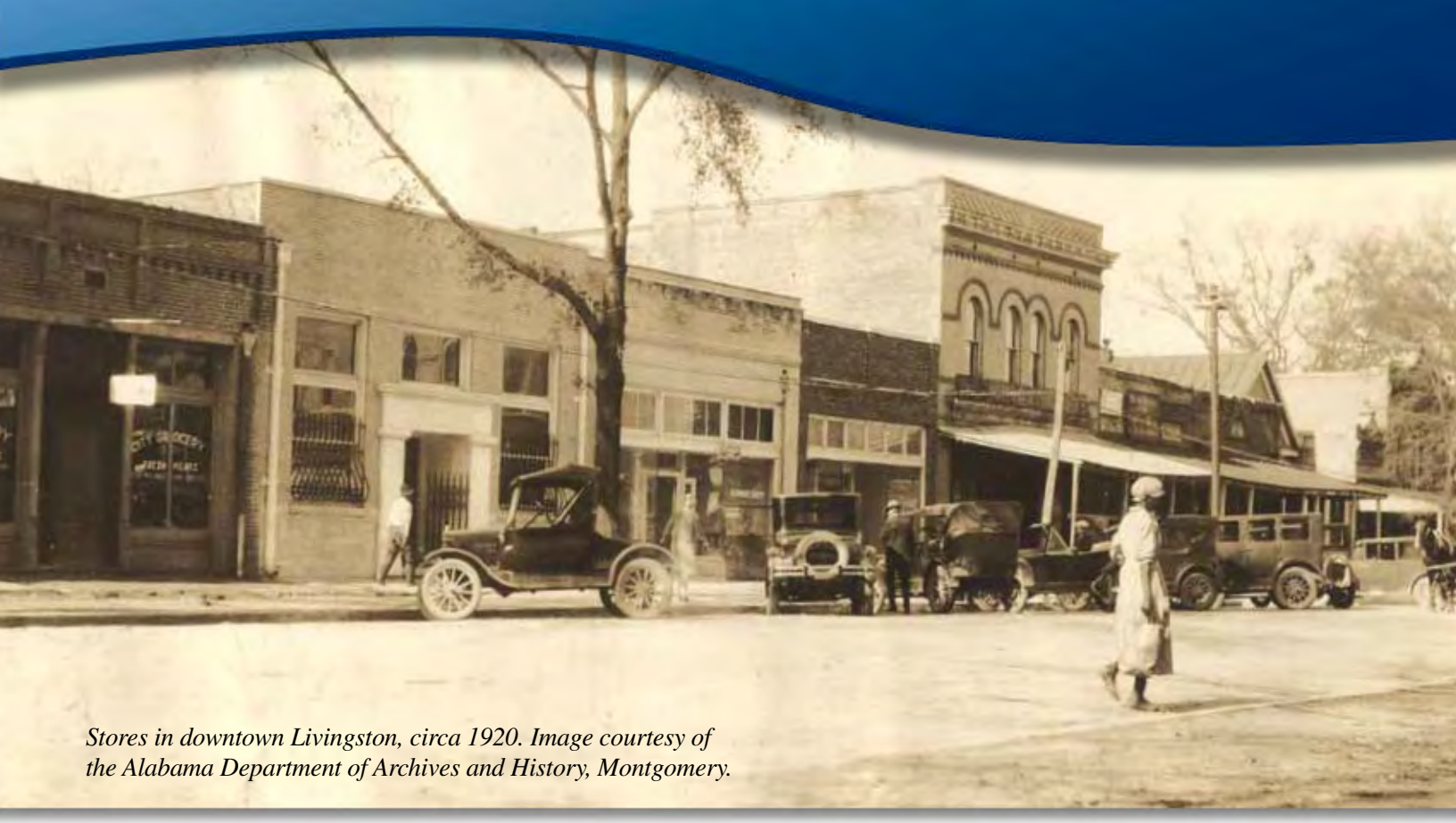
> The flush times, as they were called, were the years between 1834 and 1837. Andrew Jackson was president when Livingston was incorporated; I believe the Choctaws had been sent away by the government in 1830 except a few who positively refused to consent to the sale of their lands, and remained on the reservation. The Choctaw Nation, as this part of the country was called, was then thrown open to settlers. Any one was allowed to preempt 160 acres of lands, paying for them $1.25 per acre. People poured in from all directions. . . .
>
> The first school was taught by a Miss Carey. It was of short duration, for women were at a premium in so new a settlement."

Livingston would, at least, not go long without a school. One of the earliest and most long-lived Livingston institutions was created the same year the town was incorporated. The Livingston Female Academy was established on July 4, 1835, and admitted its first students in 1839. The school was founded by ethnic Scots-Irish Presbyterians to educate future teachers. Jones Hall was the first building, constructed on the campus in 1837 (the building was lost to fire in the 1890s). On January 15, 1840, state lawmakers incorporated the school, granted it tax-exempt status, and gave the board the authority to establish rules and regulations.

According to an advertisement in an 1847 edition of the *Sumter County Whig* (reprinted in the Dec. 11, 1969, *Tuscaloosa News*), basic tuition ranged from $12 to $16, with advanced courses in history, grammar, algebra, natural philosophy, botany, chemistry, mineralogy, geology, rhetoric, "moral science, Evidences of Christianity," piano, French, and embroidery, ranging in price anywhere from $10 to $25. The school was supervised by Margaret McShan, "a lady of known abilities and tested experience in governing and teaching," who was assisted by Miss Sara J. Inge, "most favorably known to the patrons in Livingston, who can testify that none ever taught more correctly or advanced students more rapidly."

After difficult times during the Civil War and Reconstruction, the school reopened in the late 1860s or early 1870s. Although it appears that a few male students were admitted following the war, a resolution by the board in 1876 excluded them, a policy that was followed until the beginning of the 20th century. Julia Tutwiler, the well-known educator, prison reformer, writer, and supporter of education for women, became assistant president in 1881. She succeeded in getting a small appropriation from the State Legislature in 1883 to establish normal school training for girls at the Academy. According to statements in the UWA archives, this is believed to be the first State appropriation in Alabama made exclusively for the education of women. Tutwiler changed the school's name to Livingston Normal School in 1886, and retired as president emeritus in 1910. The Academy went through several more name changes before assuming the name it is known by today: the University of West Alabama.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century Livingston became widely known as a health spa because of its Bored Well. Originally intended to supply the town with additional water, the well was started in 1854. Town



Stores in downtown Livingston, circa 1920. Image courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery.

historians say an old blind mule pulled an auger around day after day until completion in 1857 of the artesian well. At first Livingston's citizens were disappointed with the salty taste of the water, but soon claims were made that the saline, alkaline nature of the water had medicinal value. The fame of Livingston's mineral water spread far and wide and visitors began flocking to town seeking a cure for their various ailments. A Chinese pagoda originally erected over the well was replaced in 1924; that structure was replaced recently after it collapsed. For years a main part of the initiation rite for incoming freshmen at what is now UWA was a trip down to the Bored Well to drink the salty water, and it continues to be a gathering place for the citizens of Livingston.

Livingston remained the sleepy county seat of a mainly rural county with a declining population until the early 1980s, when efforts were made to revitalize the town. Results were immediate and impressive—the population nearly doubled in ten years, and corresponding increases in industry and business were seen. Major employers include the Livingston Box Company, a paperboard packaging company; Progressive Pipeline Inc.; Lost Soul Entertainment (LSE) Transportation, a supplier of modern and vintage prop vehicles; Custom Sheeting Corporation Paper Mill; Livingston Apparel Inc.; Big River Industries; Gulf Coast Energy Inc.; Mannington Floors; and of course UWA.

Livingston and the University have become centers for the preservation of Alabama history, architecture, and culture. As you will see firsthand during Saturday's tour, UWA has relocated some of the county's oldest buildings onto its campus in an effort to preserve these fragile and rare structures. Some of these sites you will find described in the following pages of the newsletter. The Black Belt Museum collects, preserves, exhibits, interprets, and celebrates the landscape and rich history of the Black Belt of Alabama and Mississippi, and is a center for regional study, programs, and other public activities.

The Center for the Study of the Black Belt encourages scholars and citizens to address the region's challenges by promoting its abundant and unique natural, historical, and cultural resources. It researches and documents the Black Belt, provides programs and instruction to students and the community, and hopes to "help unite the people of the Black Belt in a shared sense of pride, identity, and hope." Each year it hosts the Sucarnochee Folklife Festival in downtown Livingston. Festivities begin with the popular Cornbread Cook-off and continue with live music and folk crafts demonstrations including metal casting, quilting, woodworking, basket making, cheese making, urban chicken coop construction, soap making, and baking.

The AHA hopes that you will join us as we visit Livingston and explore the rich history it has to offer. Read about the historic houses and churches on the following pages and then, if you can, make plans to see them in person in October.

———

Carey Cauthen served as the editor of The Alabama Review *from 2006 to 2012. She would like to thank Valerie Burnes of the Center for the Study of the Black Belt, the Livingston Chamber of Commerce, the Encyclopedia of Alabama, and the University of West Alabama for providing the information used in the writing of this article.*

LUNCH & TOUR:
Lakewood



Lakewood was built around 1840 for North Carolina–born James Lake. Thought to be the work of Hiram W. Bardwell, its striking architecture has caught the eye since its construction. It was photographed in 1936 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (forerunner of the National Register) as part of an initiative to record important examples of early American architecture.

According to Robert Gamble of the Alabama Historical Commission, Lakewood is a fine example of the "traditional southern 'raised cottage.' . . . With its elegant Federal and Greek Revival–style trim and well-proportioned Doric portico approached by twin curving iron stairways, Lakewood qualifies as one of the more illustrious examples of raised cottage architecture anywhere in the Deep South."

Today Lakewood is owned by the seventh generation of the same family, descendants of Joseph Lake. Noted Alabama educator Julia Tutwiler, a kinswoman of the Lakes, lived at the house on and off between 1881 and 1910 when she served as president of the Livingston Female Institute. Lakewood is as mysterious as it is beautiful, with stories of a resident ghost and other spectral encounters adding to the allure of its long history. Unfortunately its location next to UWA makes it a prime target for development, and in 2012 it was placed on the Commission's list of *Alabama's Places in Peril*.

The lawn in front of Lakewood will be the setting for our lunch on Saturday and the owner has agreed to open the main floor for tours. This is a rare opportunity to see the house, and it will be open *only* during the time scheduled for lunch, so do not miss your chance to see this Sumter County jewel.



TOUR:
Elizabeth Presbyterian Church

A group of Sumter County residents established Elizabeth Presbyterian Church in November 1838. Elizabeth Knox donated the land where the original church was built, and it was named in her honor. The growing congregation replaced the original log structure in 1858 with a two-story wood frame building. Slaves were members of the church and remained part of the congregation after Emancipation until the 1870s. The church ceased to function as house of worship during the 1980s and was threatened by neglect; to prevent further deterioration, members of the Elizabeth Church Cemetery Association deeded the building to the Sumter County Historical Society.

TOUR:

Campbell-Strickland House

Robert Ezekiel Campbell and Susan Alice Gully Campbell built the Campbell-Strickland House in 1900 in the Whitfield community (it has recently been relocated to the UWA campus). The Campbells raised their eight children in the home and boarded the teacher for the school.

The left section of the house consisted of four rooms: the sun parlor, the teacher's bedroom, the dining room, and the kitchen. The middle section consisted of two large bedrooms with fireplaces. The five girls—Alice, Laura, Betty, Justina, and Sarah—shared this section. Later on a bathroom was added to the section. The right section of the house consisted of two large bedrooms. The back bedroom was Robert and Susan's. The three boys—Bob, Slocum, and Wayne—shared the front bedroom.

The house is a twist on the dogtrot, which was typical across the southeast in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In the days before electricity there was no reliable way to cool off a house. The typical dogtrot contained a breezeway between the two sides of the house, which allowed cool breezes to blow through the shaded area. Doors opened onto the breezeway, and windows could be opened on every outer wall in order to pull the cool air into the rooms. Due to their economic success, the Campbells were able to expand on this theme and create a double-dogtrot house, with two breezeways and eight rooms.





TOUR:

Covered Bridge

The Alamuchee-Bellamy Covered Bridge now covers the Duck Pond along the UWA Nature Trail. It was originally designed and constructed by Confederate Army Capt. William Alexander Campbell Jones. Built over the Sucarnoochee River in 1861 of hand-hewn pine timbers joined with wooden pegs, the bridge was used as an access route to Mississippi by Confederate forces led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. It is West Alabama's only remaining covered bridge. In 1969, it was restored and moved to its current location.

TOUR:

Hagood House



This lovely example of Victorian Gothic architecture was built by the Methodist Church in 1898 to serve as a parsonage. At that time it was across the street from the church, which stood in the Methodist Church Cemetery (now Myrtlewood Cemetery). Rev. Betts and his family were the first to live in the home. During the years between 1898 and 1960, more than 20 ministers lived on the property. In 1960 the current parsonage on Spring Street was built near the present church, and the house on Jefferson was sold.

There are gingerbread-trimmed gables on all sides of the house, with a star motif (a popular trend in Victorian homes of this era) in the front. Gingerbread trim, which mimics that of a home of the same period in Linden, adorns the six front porch columns, and was added by the current owner. In the back gardens a "Rebecca at the Well" fountain lends the happy sound of water to the fish pond where it resides, and a muscadine arbor takes one back to carefree days gone by. The present owner, Margaret Russell Hagood, has owned the house since 2005. Because of her love for the property and its history as a dwelling for men of the cloth, she has named it "Hallowed Ground."



TOUR:

Cedarwood

Cedarwood, built around 1818, was recently moved to the UWA campus and will be the future home of *The Alabama Review.* According to state architectural historian Robert Gamble, it is one of the earliest plantation dwellings left anywhere in Alabama. It predates the stereotypical columned "big house" of the late antebellum period and is, in effect, a rare architectural link between the plantation frontier and the full flowering of Black Belt planter society during the 1840s and 1850s. Cedarwood loosely falls into the category identified as the Tidewater cottage, a type that architectural historians trace back to the colonial-period Atlantic coast.





TOUR:

Christian Valley Baptist Church

Christian Valley Baptist Church is one of only 25 antebellum Baptist meetinghouses still standing today. It is also the most well-preserved. Originally built in Coatopa, Sumter County, Christian Valley was constituted in 1833 by Asa Wright, Eli Davis, and Jesse Byrd. Land was donated in May 1838 by Joseph Patton and Matthew Brewer. Though the builder of the church is undocumented, it is suspected that Hiram W. Bardwell, the Massachusetts-born master craftsman who worked in the area during the mid-1800s, could be responsible for its design (he is also thought to have designed Lakewood). The building has the crisp, unpretentious lines typical of many rural New England meetinghouses and of the kind of Greek Revival architecture that Bardwell brought to Alabama's western Black Belt during the 1840s and 1850s.

Christian Valley was relocated to UWA's campus in the last few years. It still contains its original pulpit, lamp stands, and pews. The pews are divided down the middle of the church, which has two doors—architectural features reminding visitors that the congregation was separated by gender, men sitting on one side while women and small children sat on the other.



TOUR: *Branch-Burnes House*

The Branch-Burnes house was built in 1903 by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Branch. It has passed through very few hands before becoming the residence of Brian and Valerie Burnes, who have undertaken extensive restoration work to return the interior of the house to its early 1900s beauty.

This Victorian house retains all of its original detail, from columned oak fireplaces with tile surrounds to the original doorbell. The curved, wrap-around porch invites visitors to enter through oak double-doors. Pocket doors separate the living room from the dining room, where a red stained-glass window occupies the center of the bay and casts a warm glow from the late afternoon sun. The unique feature in the dining room is the jib door, which allows access to the glassed-in sun porch (originally a screened sleeping porch) shaded by a magnolia that was planted about the time the house was built. Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, complete with a rolling ladder, surround the den.

The guest room in the back of the house once served as the semi-detached kitchen, connected to the house by a breezeway, and the guest bathroom was originally the pantry. The laundry room, just off the master bedroom, was once a back porch. The master bathroom was built sometime in the 1930s and was the first indoor plumbing in the house. The original well for the house is under the back porch, which was built by the Burneses to match the front porch. The windows and transoms in the house are in working order, as are the shutters on the windows, which are opened in the winter to let in the heat from the sun, and then closed in the summer to keep the house cooler.

The home is filled with furniture, artwork, and memorabilia from Mrs. Burnes' family, as well as pieces from the factory that Mr. Burnes' great-grandfather built. Those few pieces that are not family pieces, such as an antebellum dough box and half-tester bed, are from local Black Belt homes. The house, and everything in it, has a story, and the Burneses look forward to sharing those stories with you!

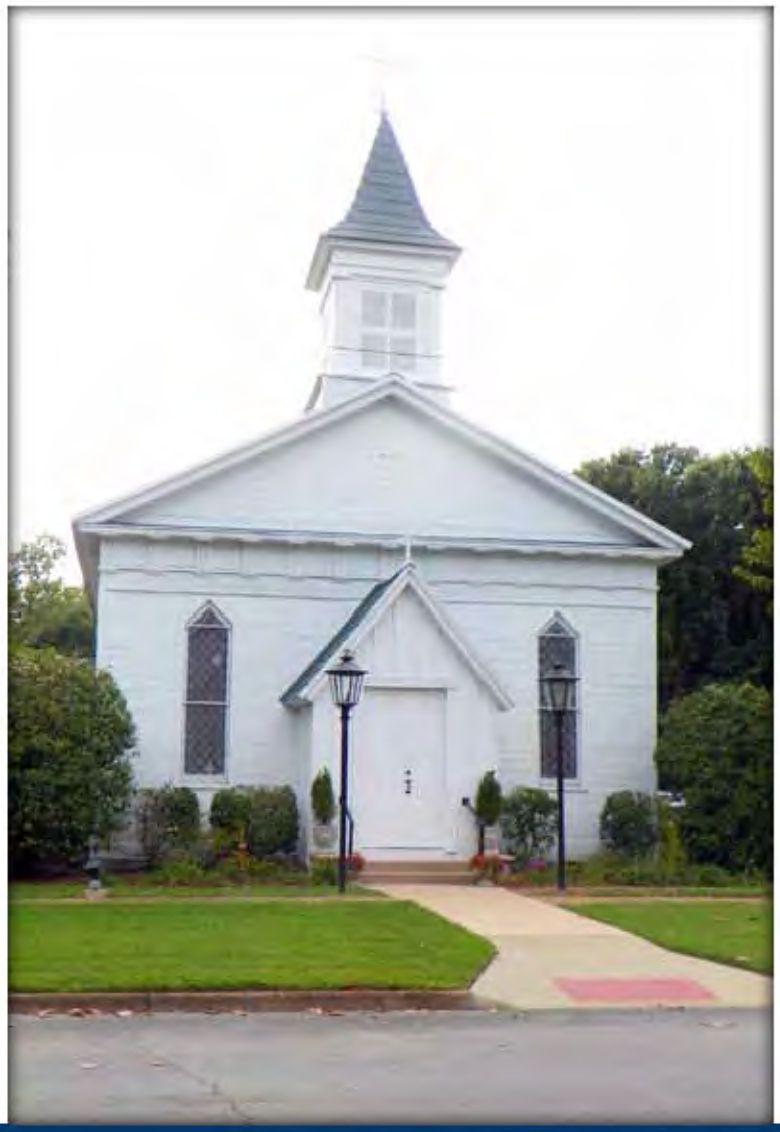
TOUR:
Spence-Moon House



The Spence-Moon House, constructed in 1834 by James H. Spence, is one of the earliest residences in Livingston. It is one of eleven homes built by a group of craftsmen from New Hampshire and Connecticut who were employed to build homes in the area and is one of only five remaining examples of Federal Period architecture. A kitchen and the semi-octagonal three-bay porch were added to the house in the late 1800s.

Congressman Samuel Ingle, who represented Sumter County in the state legislature in 1844 and was elected to the US Congress in 1847, called the residence home. Captain W. A. C. Jones, the engineer who constructed the 1861 covered bridge now located on the UWA campus, lived in the house from 1888 until 1905. The Spence-Moon House is now the base of operations for the Sumter County Historical Society and continues to serve the community, hosting family gatherings, weddings, club meetings, and banquets.

TOUR: *Saint James Episcopal Church*



Livingston's St. James parish was organized in 1836, two years after the town itself was laid out. Services were first conducted at residences as the small parish collected funds for the construction of the church—the ladies of the church, for example, held a fair in 1841 that collected $414 for project. By 1842 services were being held in a "neat though small" structure while additional funds were found to complete the building. St. James was consecrated by the Provisional Bishop of Alabama, the Rt. Rev. Leonidas Polk, on March 8, 1844. The church housed an organ and had been well-furnished by its 30 parishioners, and the church regularly shared the services of a rector with nearby communities.

More than 50 people worshipped at St. James before the outbreak of the Civil War. The conflict and Reconstruction brought some chaos to the church, however; by 1872 there was no rector and only 29 parishioners. The St. James community did not sit still, but launched a series of improvements to the church in hopes of attracting a rector and increasing the fold. A rectory, spire, and stained glass windows were added. Despite these improvements a succession of rectors came and went, and parish membership declined. St. James was officially declared a mission in 1901. The aftermath of World War II saw a positive change in the parish's fortunes, as students taking advantage of the GI Bill enrolled at Livingston's State Teachers College, later to become UWA. St. James's first full-time rector arrived in 1955, and services continue to be held regularly.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

RECEPTION AND PROGRAM VENUE

Bell Conference Center
University of West Alabama
Foust Drive
Livingston, AL, 35470
(205) 652-3527

ACCOMMODATIONS

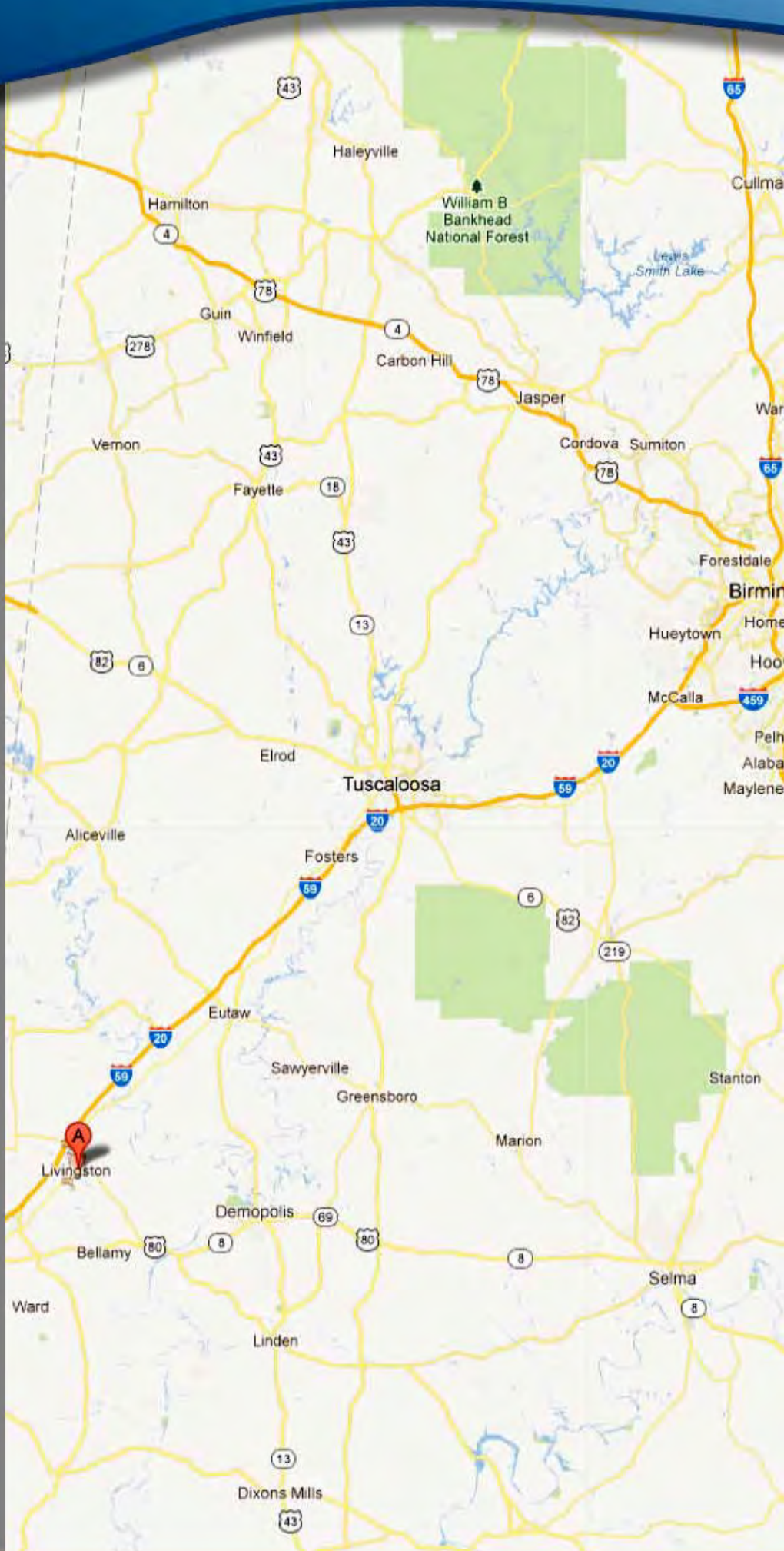
Comfort Inn
141 Trucker Blvd.
Livingston, AL, 35470
(205) 652-4839

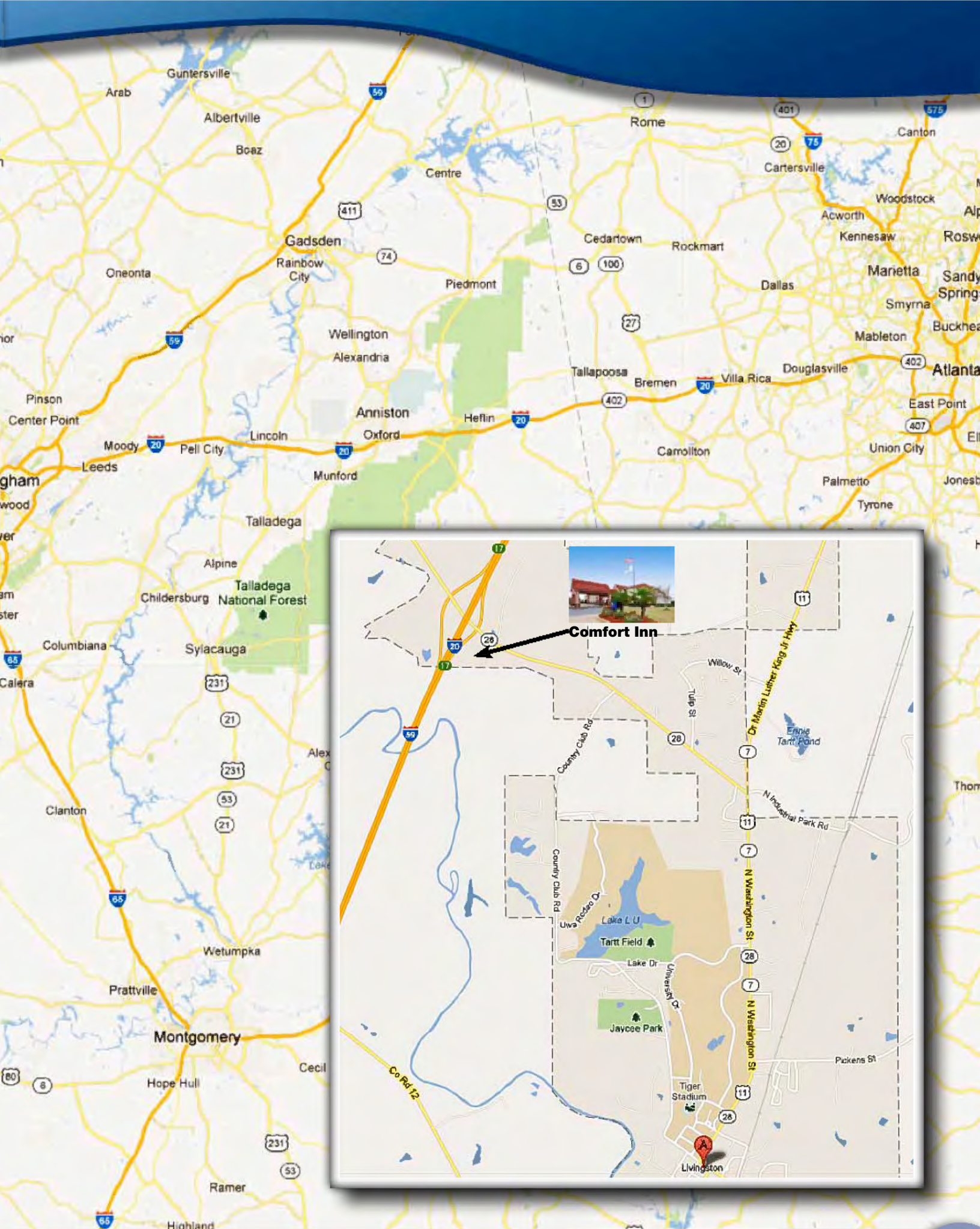
Call by September 12, 2012, and mention the AHA to receive a rate of $76.49 plus tax.

DIRECTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA

From Birmingham, AL, and **Atlanta, GA**, take I-20 West/I-59 South toward Tuscaloosa. Continue on I-20 West/I-59 South past Tuscaloosa and take AL-28 toward Livingston Blvd (Exit #17). Turn LEFT off the exit onto AL-28 East. Go approximately 2 miles, then turn RIGHT onto North Washington Street. Turn RIGHT onto University Drive, and then take an immediate LEFT onto Student Union Drive.

From Montgomery, AL, take I-65 South. After approximately four miles, merge onto US-80 West/Alabama 8/Selma Hwy toward Selma (Exit #167). Continue to follow US-80 W for approximately 110 miles (passing through Selma, Uniontown, and Demopolis). Turn RIGHT onto AL-28 West. Go approximately 12 miles, then turn RIGHT onto North Washington Street. Turn LEFT onto Astrid Street and then RIGHT onto Student Union Drive.




Guntersville
Arab
Albertville
Boaz
Centre
Rome
Canton
Cartersville
Woodstock
Acworth
Kennesaw
Gadsden
Rainbow City
Oneonta
Cedartown
Rockmart
Piedmont
Marietta
Dallas
Smyrna
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Tallapoosa
Bremen
Villa Rica
Douglasville
Atlanta
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Dr Martin Luther King Jr Hwy
Tulip St
Country Club Rd
Ernie Tartt Pond
N Industrial Park Rd
N Washington St
Lake L U
Tartt Field
Lake Dr
University Dr
Jaycee Park
Pickens St
Tiger Stadium
Livingston
Co Rd 12

2012 Annual Pilgrimage–Livingston, Alabama

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:00 p.m.	**Dinner** Bell Conference Center, University of West Alabama
6:45 p.m.	**Presentation on Fort Tombecbee** Dr. Ashley Dumas, UWA, and Mr. Brian West, UWA
7:30 p.m.	**Walking Ghost Tour of Downtown Livingston** Led by Dr. Alan Brown (Golf carts available for persons with limited mobility)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:30 a.m.	**Registration, Coffee, Book Sales** Bell Conference Center, UWA
	Optional Walking Tour of Black Belt Prairie Restoration UWA Campus, led by Dr. John Hall
10:00 a.m.	**PROGRAM** "Barbecue Clubs of Sumter County" by Valerie Pope Burnes, Director Center for the Study of the Black Belt
11:30 a.m	**Lunch** Lakewood House
1–4:00 p.m.	**Individual Tours** • Elizabeth Presbyterian Church • Campbell-Strickland House • Covered Bridge • Hagood House • Cedarwood • Christian Valley Baptist Church • Branch-Burnes House • Spence-Moon House • St. James Episcopal Church



Alabama Historical Association

Call for Papers

66th Annual Meeting
Eufaula, Alabama
April 11-13, 2013

The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers and themed panels to be given at its 66th annual meeting in Eufaula, Alabama, on April 11-13, 2013. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama from its founding through modern times.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a 20-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a curriculum vitae or résumé that includes the author's email address, postal address, telephone number, and academic or organizational affiliation (if any). Proposals should also indicate if the presenter will require any technical equipment (projectors, sound equipment, etc.) Panel discussions, (three presentations and a moderator) must also include a brief overview of the panel's theme and relevance. Roundtable panel discussions will also be considered.

Proposals must be submitted by October 10, 2012. Electronic submissions are preferred.

All presenters are required to register for the conference and be members in good standing of the Alabama Historical Association by the time of the annual meeting. The committee gives preference to presenters who have not given papers at an annual meeting within the past three years.

Please submit your proposal to the program chair:

Scotty E. Kirkland
Curator of History
History Museum of Mobile
P.O. Box 2068
Mobile, Alabama 36652-2068
skirkland@southalabama.edu

For more information on the Alabama Historical Association, visit www.alabamahistory.net or scan this QR code with your smart phone.



Sunset over Lake Eufaula/Walter F. George Lake is one of the many sights to enjoy at the AHA's 2013 Annual Meeting in Eufaula. Image courtesy of the Barbour County Chamber of Commerce.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2013 AWARDS

The Alabama Historical Association will present the following awards at the 2013 Annual Meeting in Eufaula. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for complete nomination instructions and information.

The **James F. Sulzby Book Award** recognizes the most important book that has contributed to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history published in a two-year period. The award is made in odd-numbered years. Books published in 2011 and 2012 are eligible for nomination. Three copies of each book should be mailed to: David E. Alsobrook, History Museum of Mobile, PO Box 2068, Mobile, AL, 36652-2068. Nominations must be postmarked by December 31, 2012.

The **Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant** honors the memory of Jackson and Coley with a graduate student grant awarded in odd-numbered years. The $500 grant is open to any graduate student conducting research on an Alabama-related topic. Applications should include a statement of the student's intended plan of work, a letter of reference from the chair of the department in which the student is enrolled, and/or a letter of reference from the student's major professor. Please submit nominations to: Mark Palmer, Alabama Department of Archives and History, PO Box 300100, Montgomery, AL, 36130-0100, or send the information in an email to mark.palmer@archives.alabama.gov. The deadline for all nomination materials is January 31, 2013.

The **Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award** is given every other year to a distinguished professional whose work encourages joint historical endeavors and mutual understanding among nonprofessional and professional historians. Past winners of the award include Ed Bridges, Hardy Jackson, and Leah Rawls Atkins. Emphasis will be given to persons nominated for work accomplished since the previous presentation of the award. Please send nominations to Harriet Doss, Department of History, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 360 Heritage Hall Building, 1401 University Blvd., Birmingham, AL, 35294, or through email to hadoss@uab.edu. Nominations should include the name of the nominee, reasons for nomination, supporting documentation, and contact information for the person making the nomination. If you have any questions about the nomination process, call Dr. Doss at (205) 934-5634. Deadline for receiving all nomination materials is January 15, 2013.



Mary Ann Neeley

Works of Matthew Blue Named Best Local History Book

Mary Ann Neeley, recently retired from Old Alabama Town and past-president of the Alabama Historical Association (1989–1990), received the 2012 Clinton Jackson Coley Award for best book published on local history in the previous two years for *The Works of Matthew Blue*, *Montgomery's First Historian*, published by NewSouth Books in 2010. She spent over a decade pondering this edited edition of Blue's 1878 narrative history of Montgomery, his history of Montgomery churches, a genealogy of the Blue family, and the diary of Blue's sister, Elizabeth. Neeley noted that winning an award named for her friend and Alabama history benefactor Judge C. J. Coley is particularly special to her.

Shelby County Historical Society Wins the Kuykendall Award

The winner of the Association's James Ray Kuykendall Award, which recognizes local history societies, was the Shelby County Historical Society. Headquartered in Columbiana, the society is involved in public outreach, historical research, and historic preservation, and uses innovative ideas and techniques to promote history and historical places. It educates the public through newspapers, newsletters, websites, libraries, and public events. The society also involves University of Montevallo students in its work, thereby training the next generation of county residents and giving them awareness of and appreciation for their history and historic places.



Members of the Shelby County Historical Society accepting the Kuykendall Award at the 2012 AHA annual meeting in Huntsville.

Tuskegee Airmen Article Honored by the Association for Groundbreaking Research



Dan Haulman was a co-winner of the 2012 Milo B. Howard Award for best article published in *The Alabama Review* over the previous two years. Dr. Haulman won the award for his article "The Tuskegee Airmen and the 'Never Lost a Bomber' Myth," published in the January 2011 issue. As Chief of the Organization History Division of the Air Force Historical Research Agency based at Maxwell Air Force Base, Dan researched the unit, mission, and other official reports to fully support his once-controversial conclusions.

Daniel Haulman

- *Image file 2: TuskegeeAirmen.jpg*
- *Caption for TuskegeeAirmen.jpg: Members of the 332nd Fighter Group—the Tuskegee Airmen—at their base at Ramitelli, Italy. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.*

Opelika POW Camp Article Also Recognized for Excellence

Daniel Hutchinson shared the 2012 Milo B. Howard Award for best article published in *The Alabama Review* over the previous two years for his October 2011 work "'We . . . Are the Most Fortunate of Prisoners': The Axis POW Experience at Camp Opelika during World War II." Hutchinson, formerly of Cullman and now at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina, examines the living conditions of 3,000 German, Italian, and some non-German Axis prisoners in the now-defunct prison camp in Opelika. He relies on official Provost Marshal records as well as the personal memoirs, correspondence, and writings of the prisoners themselves.



Daniel Hutchinson

- *Image 2: POWBand.jpg*
- *Caption for Image 2: Members of the POW Ba*

Camp Opelika. Image Courtesy of the Museum of East Alabam

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2013 Annual Meeting of the AHA Eufaula, April 11-13

The Association's 66th annual meeting will take place on the banks of the Chattahoochee in historic Eufaula. The "Bluff City" is home to one of the largest historic districts in Alabama, as well as the state's oldest tour of homes, the annual Eufaula Pilgrimage. Join us for a stroll down Eufaula's picturesque tree-covered streets, visit some of its most storied residences, and take in the views of scenic Lake Eufaula.

Full details will appear in the Spring 2013 issue of the newsletter. The Lakepoint State Park Resort is now taking reservations at a special AHA rate. Call (334) 687-8011 or (800) 544-5253.



Fendall Hall is one of Alabama's outstanding Italianate houses, and it is one of the locations AHA members will be able to explore in Eufaula. Image courtesy of Fendall Hall.

Alabama Historical Association

VOLUME 28
ISSUE 2
FALL 2013



Fall Pilgrimage to Horseshoe Bend National Military Park ~ October 18-19

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Cover image: A view of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. Image courtesy of Mark Dauber.

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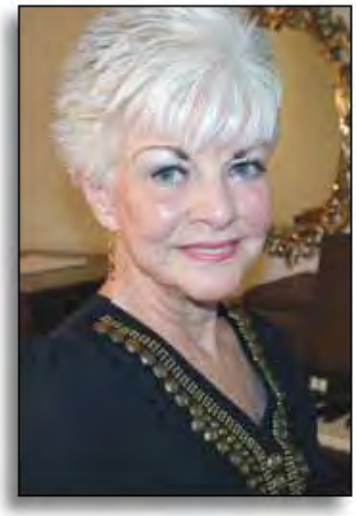
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Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gayle Thomas

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as president of the Alabama Historical Association. I hope you will participate in this fall's pilgrimage to Tallapoosa County and Horseshoe Bend, and next April's annual meeting in Scottsboro. Local committees at both sites are working hard to prepare enjoyable and productive experiences for us.

At the first AHA board meeting I attended, Debbie Pendleton pointed out that the AHA had been participating in erecting historic markers around the state since 1947, but that the organization had no idea exactly where the markers had been placed, or even if they still existed. Taking that as a challenge, Ron and I set about to locate the markers in our county. That effort soon included neighboring counties, then our quarter of the state, and ultimately the entire state of Alabama. So far we have completed our surveys in all but a handful of west-central counties.

What a journey this has turned out to be! Over the last five years we have enjoyed traveling thousands of miles across Alabama chasing our elusive markers, and we've developed a new appreciation for the state's history, its beauty, its people, and its challenges. The fruits of our labor can be seen on the AHA's website, which now lists GPS readings and physical addresses for the markers we have visited.

Our pursuit of the markers has been great fun, and I'll share with you a few of our experiences and impressions. Bullock County is distinctive for its rural beauty and several interesting place names: Where else in the world could you visit Hector, High Ridge, Scotland, Blue's Old Stand, Bread Tray Hill, Perote, and Smut Eye all in one afternoon? One of our markers there commemorates the Chunnenuggee Garden Club, the oldest continuously existing such club in the USA.

Bibb County's roads thread through some beautiful wilderness territory. They often start wide and paved but then change to gravel, then to dirt, then to a couple of ruts before widening back out a few miles later and eventually becoming an improved road again. We hunted a marker there off and on over three years before discovering its actual location in Chilton County.

Finding markers in southern Baldwin and Mobile counties included a pleasant ferry crossing between Ft. Gaines and Ft. Morgan and some excellent seafood near Bayou La Batre.

Some of the prettiest rural territory in the state is found in Blount, St. Clair, and Talladega counties, although it's hard to beat the road along the Tennessee River in Lauderdale County near Waterloo, or the winding road down the mountain to Ft. Payne.

In our quest we have often been regarded as "marker police" by people who seem to think we've come to their community to blame them for a marker's absence. A municipal worker vowed he knew nothing about our missing marker, but pointed us to the mayor's house. Appearing at the back door with a fried chicken leg in his hand, the mayor explained that our marker was in storage for road widening, but would be reinstalled soon—and it has been. The municipal worker later stopped us and sheepishly admitted he had known where the marker was all along.

We suspect we've been misled by a few residents who know full well why a marker was gone, but wouldn't say. A county road crew in St. Clair County sent us on a serpentine route to Lock Number 9, or something like that, on a fruitless search for the missing Ft. Strother marker. The next day, by sheer luck, we found the marker, minus its post, leaning against the old train depot in Talladega, where a highway patrolman had left it. Their chamber of commerce people begged us to take it with us, but we didn't have room for it and promised to send someone to fetch it. AHA member T. R. Henderson went to reclaim it a few months later, but it had gone missing again. To this day we have no idea where it is.



This AHA Historical Marker highlights the location of the Mardisville land office. Image courtesy of Gayle Thomas.

Sometimes marker hunting gets in the way of other things Alabamians are doing. In Holtville we ran into a seemingly endless homecoming parade; in Arab we found ourselves a part of the annual "Poke Salat" festival; in Huntsville we were cut off from several marker sites by a Saturday morning cycling event. Sometimes those other things are delightful: In the little community of Waldo in

Continued on page 4

Marking the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Image courtesy of Gayle Thomas.



Talladega County we came upon several families unaffectedly enjoying themselves on a weekday afternoon in a very small municipal park, totally unconcerned that the nearby Maria Forge marker was missing. Too often our marker hunting was interrupted by devastation—in Tuscaloosa, in Bridgeport, in Cullman, in Oak Grove, and several other small communities hit so hard by the tornadoes.

Many markers celebrate prominent Alabama citizens and their accomplishments, but there are also those that don't reflect very well on us at all: The Freedom Riders marker near Anniston, the Cherokee removal marker in Lauderdale County, the bus boycott marker in Montgomery, and the Albert Patterson marker in Phenix City.

Some other memorable markers include: Daniel Pratt's marker near his fenced gravesite, which is video monitored by the police; Huntsville's Monte Sano Hotel marker, which features an engraved image of the original structure; the boll weevil marker in Enterprise, with its nearby statue of a bug; the Millbrook marker of our only territorial governor, William Wyatt Bibb, who is buried in an obscure gravesite three miles away; the Pickens County marker near the "face" of Henry Wells etched by lightning into the pane of a courthouse window.

There are markers that have been damaged, some that have been neglected, some that have been expertly refurbished, and many, many that are just gone. Just recently we received a call from a scrap dealer in Fayetteville, Tennessee, who had our John Williams Walker marker that was missing from Madison County. For the price of a good bottle of whisky, a friend of Ron's drove up and rescued the marker and delivered it to a temporary home in David Robb's garage.

Our little project has given us an excuse to leave the interstates and highways and get deep into the real Alabama that few people regularly experience. Our state has breathtaking beauty, compelling majesty, and the biggest, brightest, and best of everything. Sadly, she also has abject poverty, civic apathy, tasteless architecture, almost zero municipal planning, and far too little aesthetic emphasis. In my dreams of a brighter day in Alabama, we will, in our own economic and social self-interests, target these shortcomings instead of continuing to shoot ourselves in our own collective foot.



Gayle visits the AHA Historical Marker for Camp Siebert, a WWII chemical warfare training center spanning Etowah and St. Clair counties. Image courtesy of Gayle Thomas.

Friday Reception at Ginkgo Manor

The venue for Friday's reception will be historic Ginkgo Manor, one of Dadeville's most beautiful historic houses. Four Greek-style columns rising to the top of the second-story balcony command the attention of passersby. This mansion, once known as the Mitchell House, was bought by Cheryl Haggerty and has been renamed in honor of the Chinese ginkgo tree planted there in the early twentieth century. It is believed to be one of the oldest houses in Dadeville.

There is no solid agreement on when the house was built, but local historians believe it was constructed before the Civil War, perhaps in 1830. It was the birthplace of Sidney Z. Mitchell (1862–1944), who gained wealth and prominence in the US in hydroelectrics, building his first plant in Washington state. By the time he had reached his early 40s, his reputation was enough to be invited to assist in organizing the Electric Bond and Share Company, which became one of the largest holding companies in the country.

The house was included in the 1930 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), which produced the state's first detailed record of its historic architecture. Varian Feare, a HABS writer, was impressed with the house and wrote:

> *The graceful pillars, fluted and tapered, of the classic portico, one of the most charming uncovered in the survey, are based on hand-pressed brick. A balcony with lacy, tied-in triple balusters services the second story and makes a lovely composition of the front façade. Hidden beams support it without sag. It is recorded that the silver-tongued [Confederate William Lowndes] Yancey spoke from this balcony with his eager listeners seated upon the spacious lawn. Green shutters against the white siding make the old mansion truly of the days colonial, and of such interest as to check even the most casual passer-by.*

The Ginkgo tree was a gift in 1919 from Alec Lane to the Lane family, who owned the house at the time. Alec sent the tree home from a visit to China while on a tour of duty with the US Navy.

Cheryl Haggerty has completely renovated Ginkgo Manor, keeping its antebellum appearance while giving it a functional update. Locals and out-of-towners use it for parties, weddings, receptions, and other gatherings. We are pleased to be gathering there for the Friday reception!



Image courtesy of Bob Daniel.

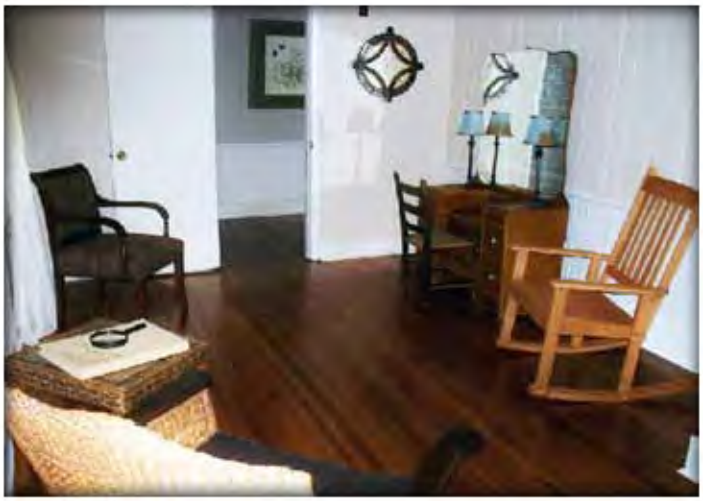


Image courtesy of Ginkgo Manor.



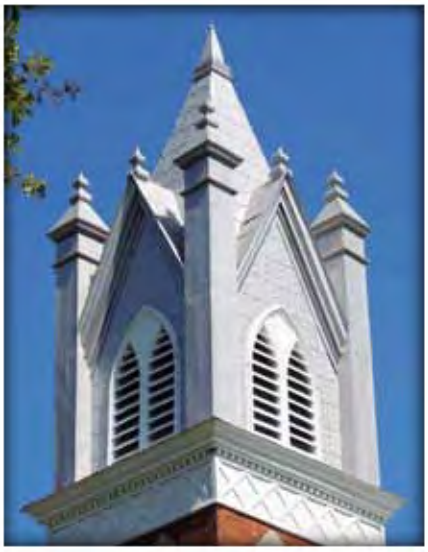
Image courtesy of Bob Daniel.

Images courtesy of Bob Daniel.



First Universalist Church of Camp Hill

With its roots in the European Enlightenment, Universalism was transplanted to the American colonies by religious sojourners and was flourishing by the time of the Revolutionary War. A Christian denomination, the defining tenet of Universalism was universal salvation—the belief that a gentle God would not condemn a soul to a literal hell. The Universalist Church of America merged with the American Unitarian Association in 1961, forming the Unitarian Universalist Association.



The First Universalist Church of Camp Hill was established in 1846 as Liberty Universalist Church. The original meeting place was a brush arbor on the present site of Mt. Lovely Baptist Church. A simple cabin soon replaced the arbor and served until 1884, when a larger wood-frame church was built. Membership burgeoned, and the striking new brick sanctuary pictured here was completed in 1907. Designed by D. A. Heinrich, a Birmingham architect, it was built with local labor using mostly indigenous material. The name was changed in 1909; it became the largest Universalist church in the southeastern United States in the first half the twentieth century and continues to hold services.

By Elsie Jo Washburn

The Holley-Kernodle-Daniel House

This "Alabama Raised Cottage" style plantation home was constructed between 1837 and 1840 in a style reminiscent of the Creole Cottages of Southern Louisiana. The owner was probably Richard Holley, who came to this country with his brother John from Scotland. They settled in Georgia but came to Alabama when the Indian lands became available. They both purchased several hundred acres and built homes approximately one-half mile apart and served in the state legislature.

David Alexander Green Ross probably acquired the house after his marriage to Narcissa Frances Holley Tower. He served in the Civil War and in the State Legislature. He also funded construction of Ross Hall at the Southern Industrial Institute (now the Lyman Ward Military Academy).

The next owner, J. A. Kernodle, came to this area from North Carolina to sell fruit trees, shrubbery, and other nursery stock. He had the first budded pecan tree in Alabama; all the pecans trees in the area can be attributed to him. Kernodle worked closely with George Washington Carver at Tuskegee; his daughter Ruth was a good friend of Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone with the Wind*, through Ruth's work with the Red Cross in Atlanta. It is not known whether Margaret Mitchell visited the house, but current owners Bob and Cheryl Daniel like to think that she did.

After Mr. Kernodle the house had a succession of owners, and after years of neglect it had fallen into a state of disrepair. Cheryl and Bob purchased the house and moved it to its present site in 1994 and have kept the house as original as possible. The rear wing had to be reconstructed after the move but was done so according to a documentation survey by the Alabama Historical Commission. Cheryl Daniel has names the house "Maewood" in honor of her mother, Mae John Wood Bradshaw.



Image courtesy of Bob Daniel.

According to the Daniels, the house has a ghost. Perhaps visitors will be lucky enough to encounter it?



Smith Mountain Fire Tower

The Smith Mountain Fire Tower was erected in 1939, a creation of the Alabama Power Company, the Tallapoosa County Forest Conservation Association, and the Alabama Division of Forestry. Overlooking Lake Martin and the surrounding countryside, it proved an important tool in fighting forest fighters. It was also a landmark for boaters and hikers.

The state soon took over management of the tower and used Civilian Conservation Corps labor to build a ranger station at its base in 1941. None of these buildings survive, although some foundations are evident. The tower itself, built with galvanized steel, remained standing but was decommissioned in 1980.

In 2008 the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail Association (CRATA) began an effort to obtain the property and restore the tower. Reopened in 2012, the tower and surrounding trails are open for public use. The view from the tower, which is 80 feet above the top of Smith Mountain, is spectacular and offers panoramic views of Lake Martin.

Image courtesy of the Alabama Power Company Corporate Archives.

Tallapoosee Historical Society Museum

On February 17, 1969, a group met to organize a historical association to secure, preserve, and permanently display artifacts, historical documents, and other items of interest. Enough cash was raised to purchase three used display cases which were moved to the basement of the Dadeville Public Library. Later the display was located upstairs over the Tucker Insurance Agency.

Today the Tallapoosee Historical Society Museum has an impressive building to house its many artifacts. The society is currently raising funds to expand facilities into the adjacent building. Among the many items housed in this museum are a Duncan and Son's delivery wagon, rabbit boxes (used during the Great Depression in order to save bullets), military uniforms, pump organs, parlor sets, a letter from Margaret Mitchell, and the first medical degree ever given to a woman from the Graefenberg Medical Institute (Alabama's first medical school, which opened in 1852).





Images courtesy of Bob Daniel.



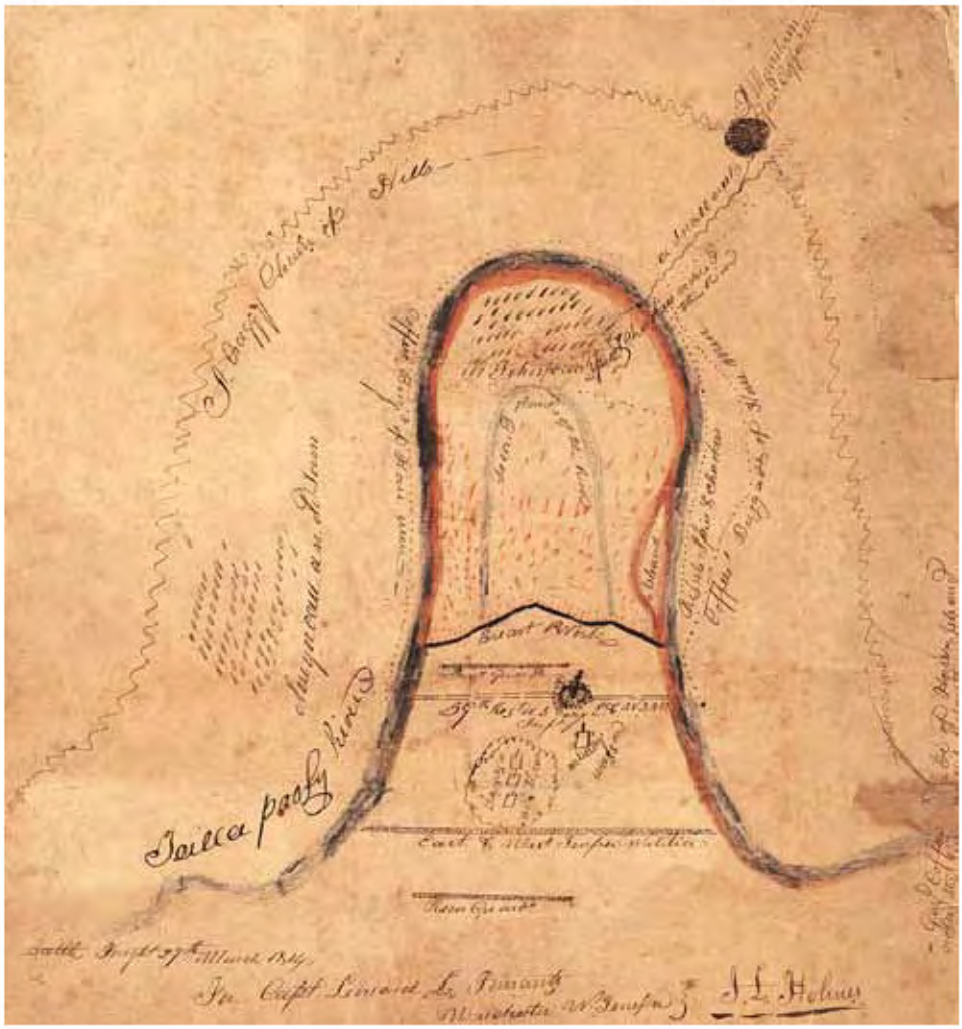
Welcome to Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Site of the Fall Pilgrimage

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park was established to preserve the site of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. This battle, named after a bend in the Tallapoosa River in northeast Tallapoosa County, was the final conflict in the Creek War of 1813–14 and marked the defeat of the Red Stick Creeks by Gen. Andrew Jackson and his forces. The 2,040–acre park was established by an act of Congress in 1956 and officially proclaimed on August 11, 1959, by Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Battle of Horseshoe Bend

On the morning of March 27, 1814, in what is now Tallapoosa County, Gen. Andrew Jackson and an army consisting of Tennessee militia, United States regulars, and Cherokee and Lower Creek allies attacked Chief Menawa and his Upper Creek, or Red Stick, warriors fortified in the Horseshoe Bend of the Tallapoosa River. Facing overwhelming odds, the Red Sticks fought bravely, yet ultimately lost the battle. More than 800 Upper Creek warriors died at Horseshoe Bend defending their homeland. This was the final battle of the Creek War of 1813–14. The victory at Horseshoe Bend brought Jackson national attention and helped elect him president in 1828. In a peace treaty signed after the battle, the Creeks ceded nearly 23 million acres of land to the United States.

Long before the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the Creek (also known as Muskogee) people lived in a loose confederation of towns along the rivers of Georgia and Alabama. Anglo-American settlers divided the Creek towns geographically into two groups: the Lower Towns along the Chattahoochee, Flint, and Ocmulgee Rivers; and the Upper Towns along



Map of the battle of Horseshoe Bend, drawn for Capt. Leonard L. Tarrants by J. L. Holmes, circa 1814. Image courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL.

the Tallapoosa, Coosa, and Alabama Rivers. In 1811, Shawnee military leader Tecumseh visited the southeastern tribes, hoping to encourage them to return to their ancient traditions as well as drive the Americans from their ancestral lands. Many individuals in the Upper Creek Towns responded favorably to Tecumseh. When war broke out between the United States and Great Britain in 1812, a few Creek warriors joined Tecumseh and the British in fighting the Americans. The War of 1812 in turn brought on the Creek War of 1813–14 (also known as the Creek Civil War), a struggle between Creeks in both the Upper and Lower towns friendly to the United States and a faction in the Upper Towns called the Red Sticks, hostile towards the Americans. Many scholars believe that the Red Sticks took their name from their red-painted war clubs.

On July 27, 1813, a small force of Mississippi Territory Militia ambushed a party of Red Sticks returning from Pensacola with Spanish ammunition and supplies at Burnt Corn Creek, located near the border of what is now Conecuh and Escambia counties. One month later, on August 30, the Red Sticks retaliated by killing 250 Creek and American settlers at Fort Mims, a stockade just north of Mobile. The Fort Mims Massacre, as it came to be known, turned the Creek Civil War into a larger conflict, with US forces from Tennessee, Georgia, and the Mississippi Territory launching a three-pronged assault into Creek territory. The governor of Tennessee appointed Andrew Jackson, a prominent state politician and militia officer, to lead a portion of the state's militia into Creek country. Jackson fought a slow and difficult campaign south along the Coosa River. In March 1814, reinforced by regular soldiers of the 39th United States Infantry, Jackson left the Coosa with a force of 3,300 men, including 500 Cherokee and 100 Lower Creek warriors allied to the United States. He intended to attack a Red Stick refuge and defensive position in the Horseshoe Bend of the Tallapoosa River.



A reenactor demonstrates the weaponry and clothing one would have seen at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Image courtesy of Mark Dauber.

On March 26, Jackson's army camped six miles northwest of Horseshoe Bend. Menawa, a respected war leader from the town of Oakfuskee, waited at the bend with 1,000 Red Stick warriors and at least 350 women and children. Beginning in December 1813, people from six Upper Creek towns—Newyaucau, Oakfuskee, Oakchaya, Eufaula, Fishponds, and Hillabee—had gathered at Horseshoe Bend for protection. At the toe of the bend they built a temporary village, which they called Tohopeka, consisting of about 300 log houses. Across the narrow neck of the bend they constructed a log-and-dirt barricade nearly 400 yards long. In this fortified place, the Red Sticks hoped to defeat an attacking army or at least delay the attackers while the women, children, and older men escaped down river.

At 6:30 on the morning of March 27, Jackson divided his army. He ordered General John Coffee's force of 700 mounted riflemen and 600 allied warriors to cross the Tallapoosa about two and one half miles downriver from Tohopeka and surround the village. The 2,000 remaining men, led by Jackson, marched directly for the neck of the horseshoe and the barricade. Jackson knew that it would be difficult to attack the imposing barricade. He chose the 39th Infantry, the most disciplined and best trained of his soldiers, to lead the assault. Before sending them forward, he determined to blow a hole in the wall with his cannon. The bombardment began at 10:30 a.m. For two hours the guns fired iron shot at the barricade protecting the Red Sticks, who waited and shouted at the army to meet them in hand-to-hand combat. Perhaps a third of the 1,000 warriors defending the barricade possessed a musket or rifle.

Meanwhile, across the river from Tohopeka, three of Coffee's Cherokee warriors slipped into the river and swam to canoes lying on the opposite bank. Using the stolen canoes, the Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors crossed the river in increasing numbers, attacking and burning Tohopeka from the rear. At 12:30 p.m. Jackson launched his attack, after seeing smoke rising above the treetops and hearing gunshots. Drummers signaled the

Continued on page 10



Visitors have the opportunity to learn about Creek history and traditions at the park. Image courtesy of Mark Dauber.

advance, and with bayonets fixed, the regulars swept forward. After a few minutes of brutal fighting, the Red Sticks fell back to the interior of the bend. They fought desperately but were outgunned and vastly outnumbered. Many tried to escape into the river, but Coffee's men shot them before they reached the opposite bank. The fighting raged nearly six hours before darkness fell and ended the battle.

More than 800 Red Stick warriors died that day, with 557 counted on the battlefield and an estimated 300 shot in the river. Of Jackson's troops, 49 were killed and 154 wounded. The 350 Upper Creek women and children became prisoners of the Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors. Chief Menawa was wounded seven times but escaped the slaughter. By his own account he lay among the dead until nightfall and then crawled to the river, climbed into a canoe, and disappeared into the darkness. Menawa remained a prominent leader in Creek society and continued to live along the Tallapoosa River until 1836, when he was forced to relocate to Indian Territory in what is today Oklahoma.

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend effectively ended the Creek War of 1813–14 and made Jackson a national hero. He was made a major general in the US Army and on January 8, 1815, defeated the British forces at the Battle of New Orleans. The battles of Horseshoe Bend and New Orleans made Jackson popular enough to be elected as the seventh president of the United States in 1828. During his presidency, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, a law providing for the removal of all the Southeastern Indian tribes. A few months after Horseshoe Bend, on August 9, 1814, Andrew Jackson and a gathering of Creek chiefs signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson, officially ending the Creek War and ceding nearly 23 million acres of Creek land to the United States. Thousands of American settlers poured into this vast area, with much of the land becoming the state of Alabama in 1819.

The Battlefield Becomes a Park

Today, the battlefield is preserved by the National Park Service as Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, near Dadeville. The roots of the park lie in a visit to the battlefield by Alabama Power Company executive Thomas Martin in 1923. At the time, the company was evaluating sites for potential dams and had purchased much of the land on which the battlefield sits some years earlier. Despite its appeal as a site for a dam, Martin recognized the historical significance of the battlefield and requested that the company abandon



Living history demonstrators educate park visitors during an event at the park. Image courtesy of Mark Dauber.

its plans for a dam downstream of the site. He also initiated the effort to designate the site a national park. He convinced the company to donate the property to the federal government and helped organize the Horseshoe Bend Battle Park Association, serving as chair. Thomas D. Russell, president of Alabama-based clothing manufacturer Russell Corporation, served as president of the board. The board worked with Alabama congressman Albert Rains and senators Lister Hill and John Sparkman to draft legislation establishing the park. Rains then introduced the bill as HR 11766, and President Eisenhower signed it into law.

On March 27, 1964, the park officially opened to the public with the dedication of the Visitor Center. In 1965, a three-mile touring road through the battlefield was constructed. Today, the Visitor Center features an auditorium that shows a 23-minute video about the park and its history, a museum containing artifacts from the battlefield, and exhibits detailing the Creek War, the War of 1812, and Creek Indian history. Visitors to the park may view important sites on the battlefield by driving the auto tour road or walking a 2.8-mile nature trail. Each year, during the month of March, the park observes the anniversary of the battle with a living history event designed to focus attention on the participants of the battle. Authentic Creek, Cherokee, and military camps are constructed on the field behind the park Visitor Center. In August the park sponsors a second special event, Muster on the Tallapoosa, featuring guest speakers and living history demonstrations.

The park receives nearly 100,000 visitors per year. Groups visiting Horseshoe Bend may schedule battlefield tours or musket demonstrations by contacting park staff.



Living history demonstrators ready the park's cannon for a firing demonstration. Image courtesy of Carey Cauthen.

By Ove Jensen, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, with Claire M. Wilson, Auburn University.

This piece was compiled from two articles on Horseshoe Bend from the Encyclopedia of Alabama (www.encyclopediaofalabama.org), a free, online reference resource on Alabama's history, culture, geography, and natural environment. EOA is a partnership of Auburn University, the Alabama State Department of Education, and the University of Alabama. It was developed by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and Auburn University with the generous financial support of its founding sponsors. Auburn University hosts EOA's editorial office through the Office of University Outreach, in partnership with University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology.

Living History Demonstrations at the Fall Pilgrimage

- Join a group of Tennessee militia historical demonstrators for the firing of the six-pound cannon and a musket/rifle demonstration.
- Steve Abolt, a nationally known historian who specializes in the clothing and uniforms of the War of 1812 period, will have uniforms, equipment, and other items to show meeting attendees. Abolt, who lives in Brunswick, Georgia, makes his living by hand tailoring early 19th century uniforms and clothing and through historical consulting on the period, and knows much about the material culture of the period.
- There will be a demonstration of Creek camp cooking by Rosa Hall, who uses her knowledge and expertise to demonstrate living history at Fort Toulouse, Horseshoe Bend, and various other places. Her daughter Monica does period Native American textile work. Her husband John will be there as a volunteer with the militia and as an AHA member.

2013 ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

1:00 p.m. **TALLAPOOSA COUNTY TOURS**
- First Universalist Church of Camp Hill
- Holley-Kernodle-Daniel House
- Smith Mountain Fire Tower
- Tallapoosee Historical Society Museum

6:00 p.m. **RECEPTION**
Ginkgo House, Dadeville

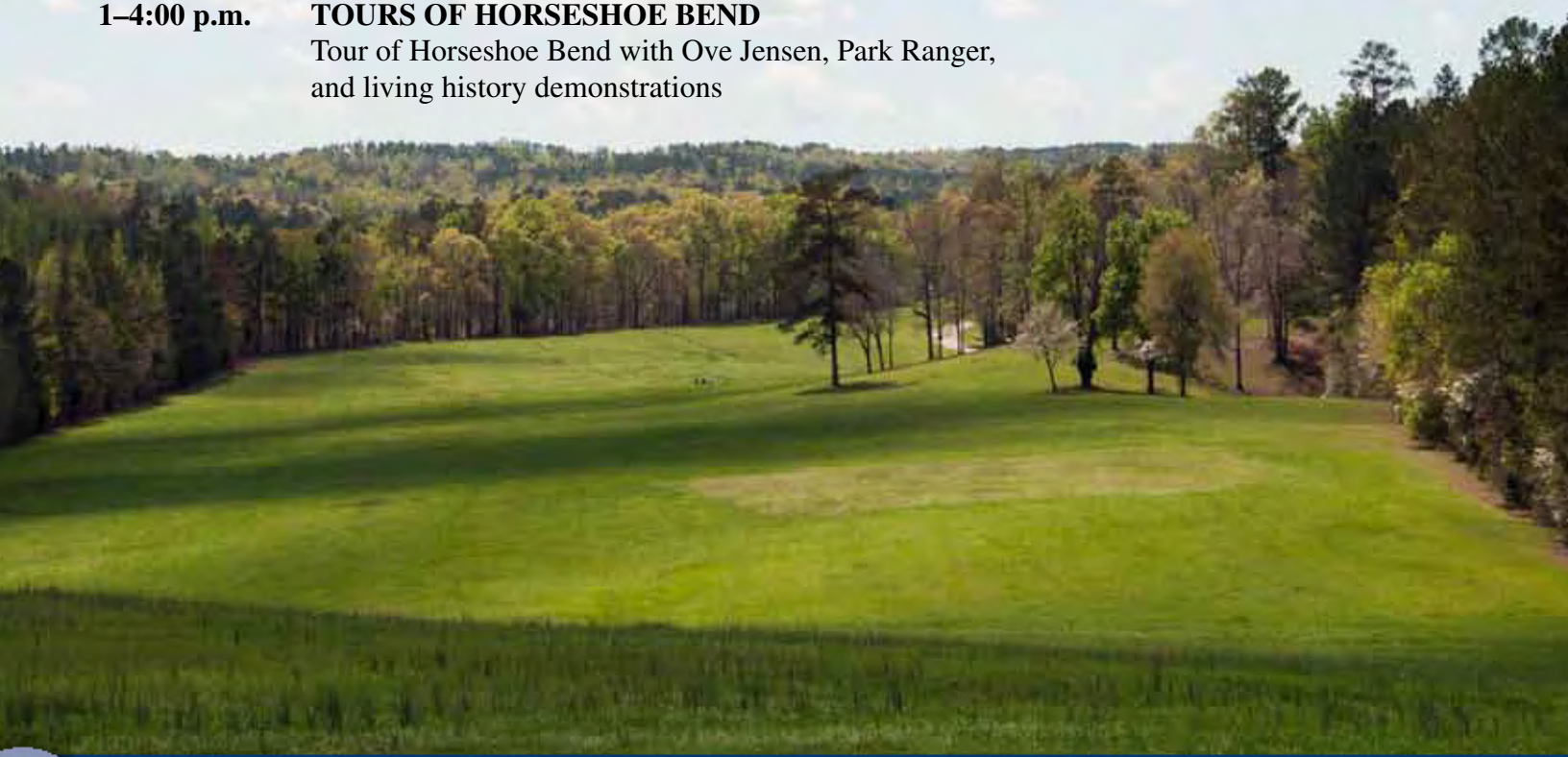
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

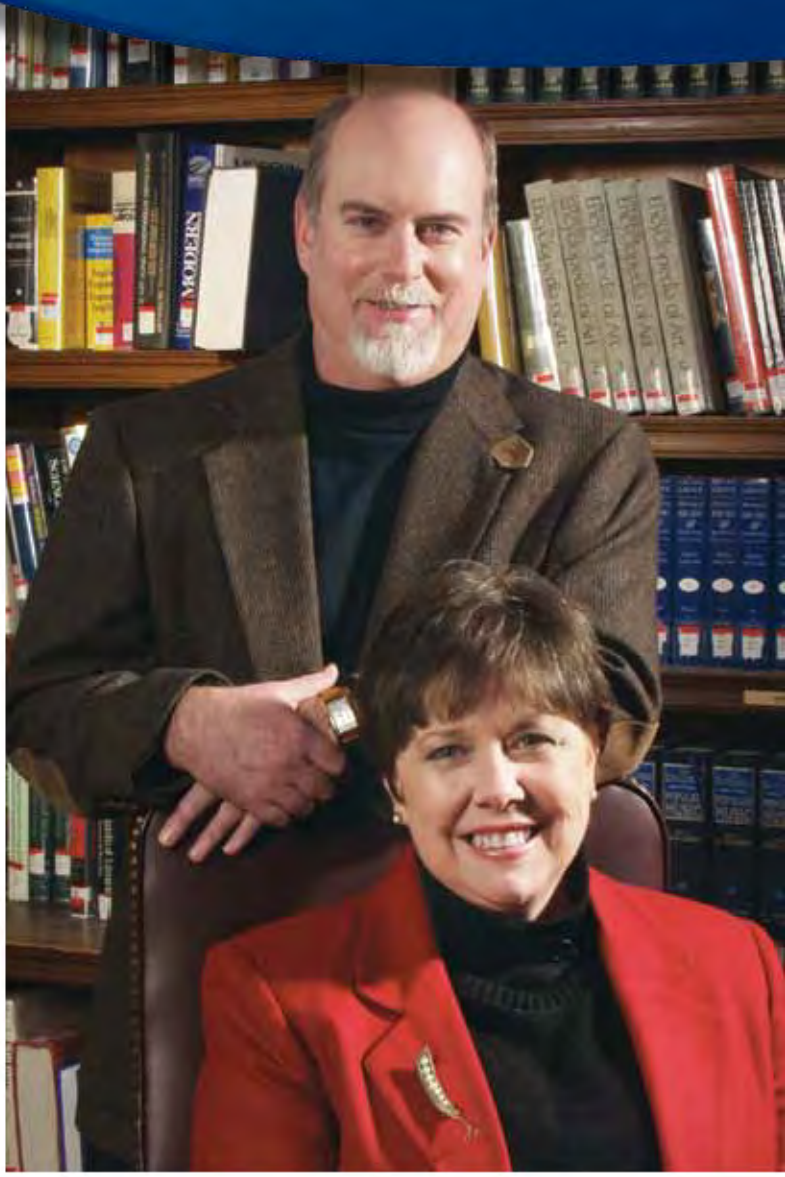
9:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION, COFFEE, BOOK SALES**
Horseshoe Bend Military Park Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. **PROGRAM**
- AHA President Gayle Thomas, presiding
- Welcome from Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Doyle Sapp, Superintendent
- Welcome from Friends of Horseshoe Bend, Greg Wilson, President
- Historic Maps of Horseshoe Bend, Dr. Kathryn Braund, Auburn University
- "Sharp Knife Makes the Papers: Horseshoe Bend and the Rise of Andrew Jackson," by David S. and Jeanne T. Heidler
- Archaeology of Horseshoe Bend and Tour Overview, Heather Tassin and Ove Jensen, Park Rangers

11:45 a.m **LUNCH**

1–4:00 p.m. **TOURS OF HORSESHOE BEND**
Tour of Horseshoe Bend with Ove Jensen, Park Ranger, and living history demonstrations





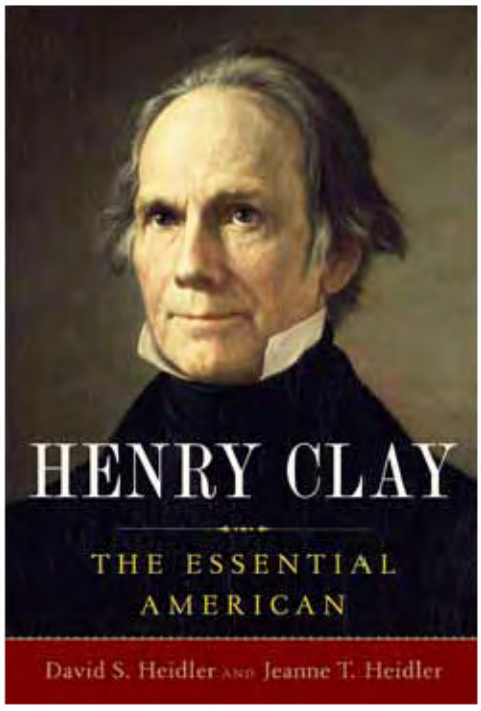
David and Jeanne Heidler:

"Sharp Knife Makes the Papers: Horseshoe Bend and the Rise of Andrew Jackson"

The AHA is happy to welcome David S. and Jeanne T. Heidler as the featured speakers of the Saturday morning program. They will talk about Andrew Jackson's conduct during the Creek War, culminating at Horseshoe Bend, including his attitude toward Indians and how those factored into the events of 1814.

David and Jeanne were born in Atlanta, Georgia, but did not meet until enrolling in Auburn University's History graduate program. They married in 1981 and shortly afterward received PhDs in United States History. The matrimony and the academic degrees were purely coincidental.

Their method of collaborative research and writing can make for interesting dinner conversations. After teaching for almost a decade at Colorado State University–Pueblo, David retired from the classroom to devote himself to writing full-time. Jeanne is currently Professor of History and Director of American History at the United States Air Force Academy, where she is the senior civilian member of her department.



The Heidlers are award-winning historians who have written or edited numerous articles and twelve books on the Early American Republic, the Antebellum period, and the America Civil War, including *Old Hickory's War: Andrew Jackson and the Quest for Empire* (Louisiana State University Press, 2003) and *Henry Clay: The Essential American* (Random House, 2010, PBK, 2011). They have also published books on the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and Indian Removal.

They have edited such works as *The Encyclopedia of the American Civil War* (W. W. Norton, 2002) and several series of monographs on subjects ranging from US civil/military relations to the daily lives of civilians in war. Most recently, they have completed a study of how the associates and family of George Washington influenced the man and his presidency. Tentatively titled *Washington's Circle*, the book is projected to be published by Random House in 2014.

The Heidlers live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

RECEPTION

GINKGO MANOR
357 West Columbus Street
Dadeville, AL, 36853
(256) 825-4532

ACCOMMODATIONS

CREEKSIDE LODGE
6993 Highway 49 South
Dadeville, AL, 36853
(256) 307-1440, (877) 740-7404
AHA group rate: $109/night plus tax
if reserved before Sept. 19.

COMFORT INN AND SUITES
2945 Highway 280
Alexander City, AL, 35010
(256) 234-5900
AHA group rate: $74.95/night plus tax
if reserved before Oct. 4.

PROGRAM VENUE

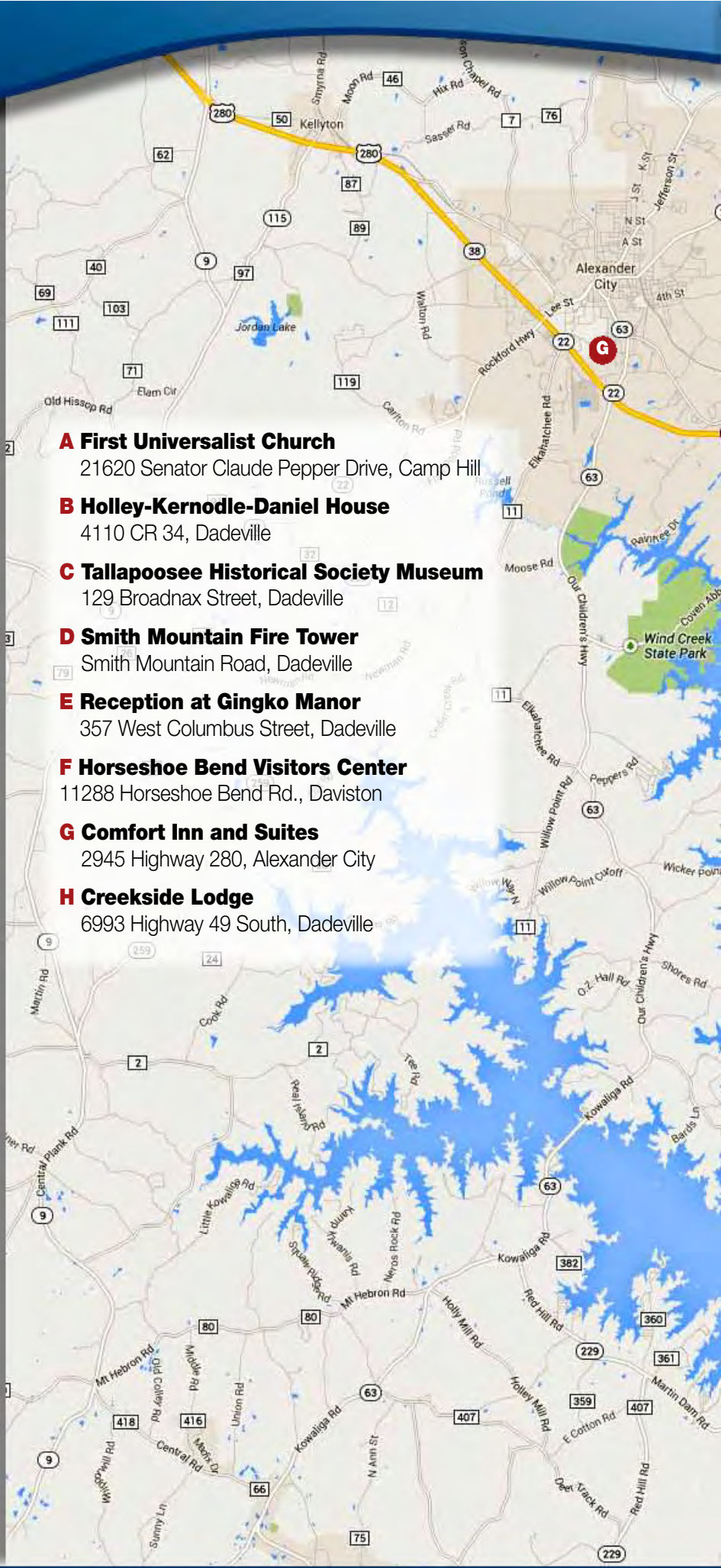
HORSESHOE BEND NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
Visitor Center
11288 Horseshoe Bend Road
Daviston, AL, 36256
(256) 234-7111

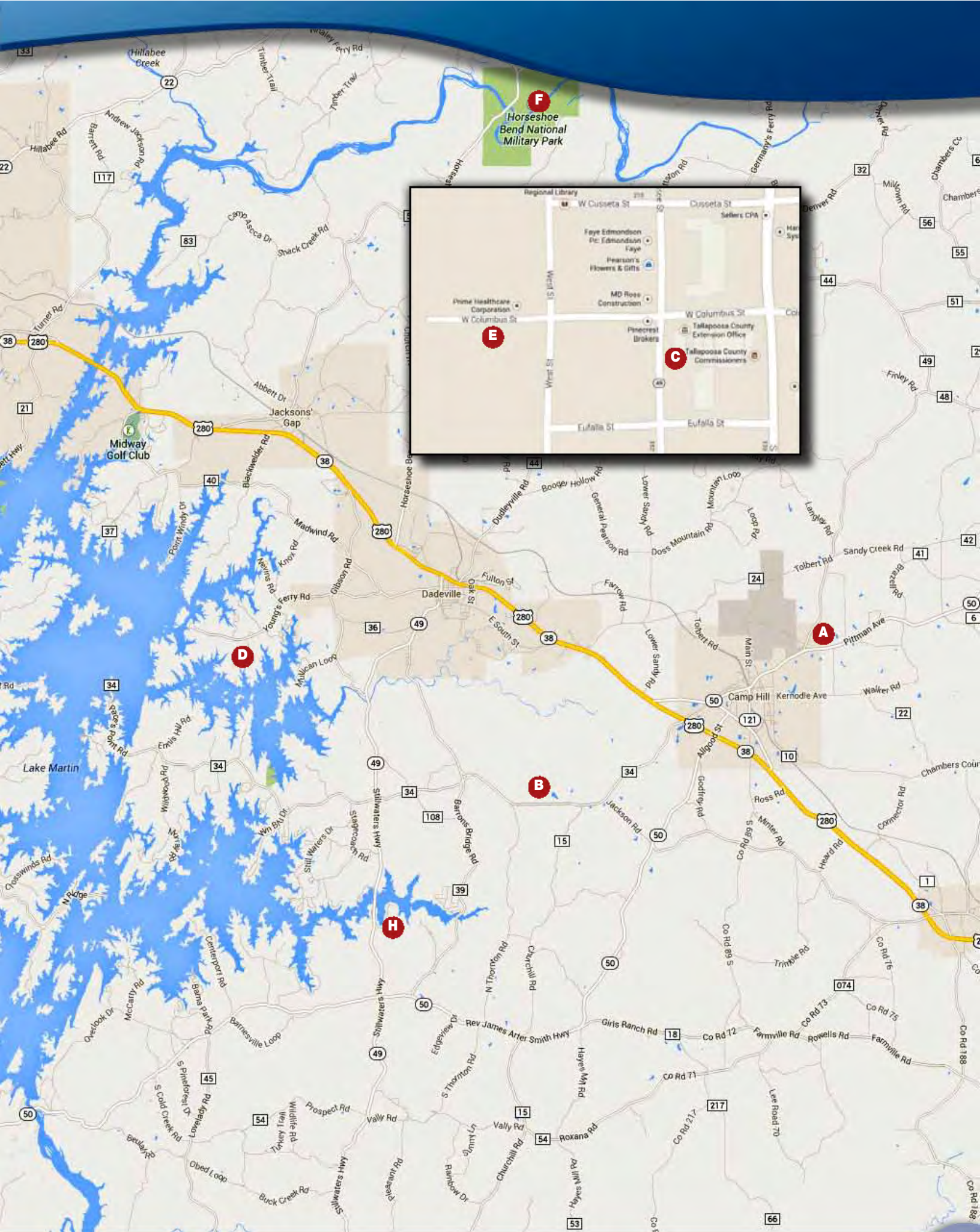
DIRECTIONS TO HORSESHOE BEND

From Montgomery, take I-85N toward Atlanta. Take Exit 32 (Alabama Highway 49). Turn north (left) onto Alabama Highway 49 toward Dadeville. Follow Highway 49 as it "jogs" through Dadeville. Turn left on US 280/ Alabama 49, then turn right on Highway 49 north. Follow it 12 miles to the park entrance.

From Birmingham, take US 280 East to Alabama Highway 49. Turn north (left) onto Highway 49 and travel 12 miles to the park entrance.

From Columbus, GA via Auburn/Opelika, take US 280W, crossing into Alabama. Merge onto I-85S and follow to exit 58. At exit 58, travel US 280W toward Dadeville/Alexander City. Turn north (right) onto Alabama Highway 49. Travel 12 miles to the park entrance.




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F
H
Horseshoe Bend National Military Park
Midway Golf Club
Jacksons' Gap
Dadeville
Camp Hill
Lake Martin
Hillabee Creek
Regional Library
W Cusseta St
Cusseta St
Sellers CPA
Faye Edmondson
Pearson's Flowers & Gifts
West St
MD Ross Construction
Prime Healthcare Corporation
W Columbus St
Pinecrest Brokers
Tallapoosa County Extension Office
Tallapoosa County Commissioners
Eufaula St

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Call for Papers

67th Annual Meeting
Scottsboro, Alabama
April 10-12, 2014

The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers and themed panels to be given at its 67th annual meeting in Scottsboro, Alabama, on April 10-12, 2014. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama from its founding though modern times.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a 20-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a curriculum vitae or résumé that includes the author's email address, postal address, telephone number (including cell number), and academic or organizational affiliation (if any). Proposals should also indicate if the presenter will require any technical equipment (projectors, sound equipment, etc.). Panel discussions, (three presentations and a moderator) must also include a brief overview of the panel's theme and relevance. Roundtable panel discussions will also be considered.

Proposals must be submitted by October 11, 2013. Electronic submissions are preferred.

All presenters are required to register for the conference and be members in good standing of the Alabama Historical Association by the time of the annual meeting. The committee gives preference to presenters who have not given papers at an annual meeting within the past three years.

Please submit your proposal to the program chair:

Christopher Lyle McIlwain, Sr.
Hubbard, McIlwain & Brakefield, P.C.
P. O. Box 2427
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403
cmcilwain@hubbardfirm.com

For more information on the
Alabama Historical Association,
Visit www.alabamahistory.net or
Scan this QR code with your smart phone.



Jim Bagget received the Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award from Harriet Amos Doss at the AHA's 2013 Annual Meeting.

Jim Baggett Recognized for Building Bridges

Birmingham Public Library's Jim Baggett was given the 2013 Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award for contributions to Alabama history which encourage joint historical endeavors and mutual understanding among nonprofessional and professional historians.

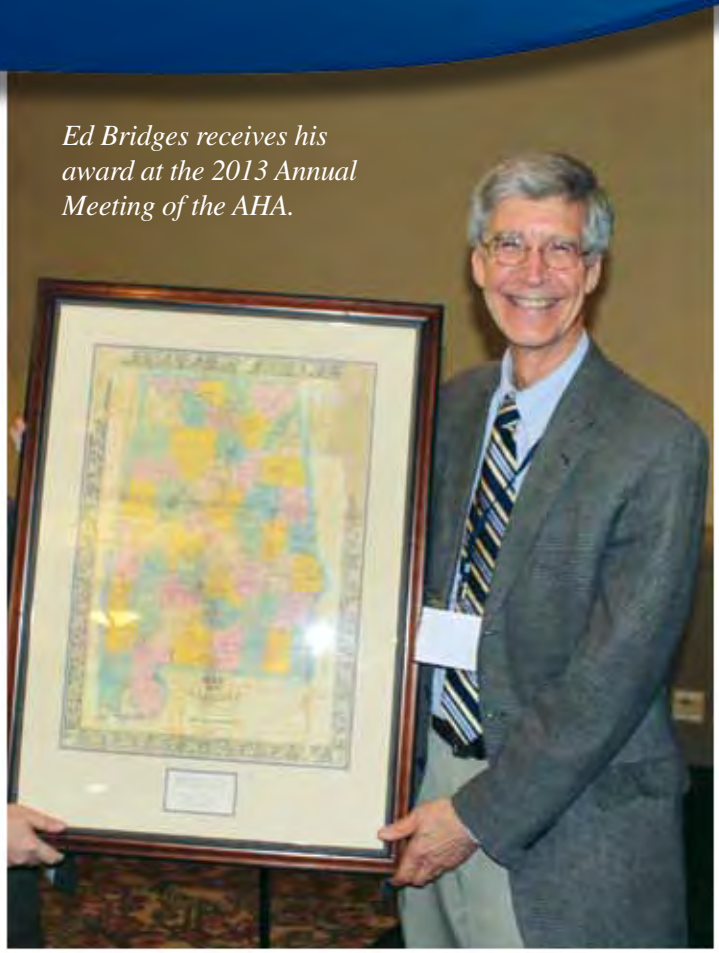
Baggett is head of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library and archivist for the City of Birmingham. He has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists and Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission. Jim has lectured throughout the US and Europe and has been featured on Alabama Public Television, National Public Radio, and CSPAN. He has authored or edited four books on Birmingham and Alabama history, including *A Woman of the Town: Louise Wooster, Birmingham's Magdalen* and *Alabama Illustrated: Engravings from 19th Century Newspapers.* Jim has written more than 50 articles on archival preservation and Alabama history for *Alabama Librarian* magazine, *Alabama Heritage, Birmingham* magazine, and other publications.

Nominations Sought for 2014 Awards

The Alabama Historical Association will present the following awards at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Scottsboro. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for complete nomination instructions and information.

The **James Ray Kuykendall Award** honors a local historical society in Alabama for outstanding achievements and for significant contributions to a greater appreciation of community and state history. The award is given in even-numbered years. Any historical society is eligible to apply, provided it has not received the award in the last fifteen years. An award application form and instructions are available on the AHA Web site.

The **Clinton Jackson Coley Award** goes to the best book or pamphlet focusing on local historical concerns, including but not limited to the history of an Alabama community, town, or county, or any institution therein (church, business, nonprofit, etc.). Works published since January 2010 are eligible, and those written by lay or amateur historians are welcome. For more information, please contact Scotty Kirkland through email at scotty.kirkland@cityofmobile.org or by phone, (251) 208-7246.



Ed Bridges receives his award at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the AHA.

Ed Bridges Receives Rucker Agee Service Award

On April 12, 2013, the Alabama Historical Association presented the Rucker Agee Service Award to Dr. Ed Bridges in grateful recognition for his extraordinary contributions to preserve and promote Alabama history.

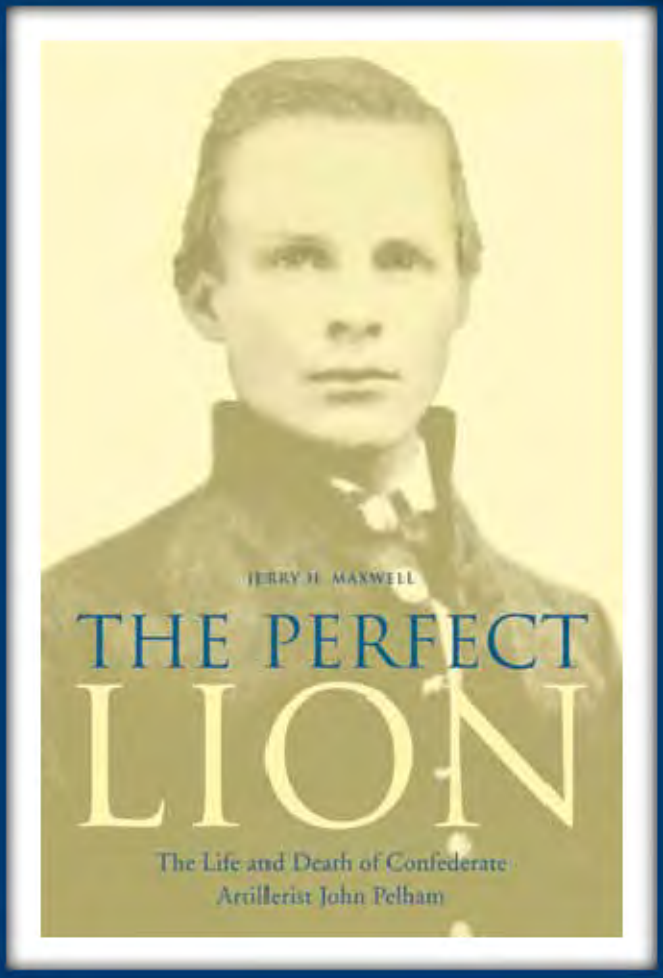
A native of Georgia, Dr. Bridges came to Alabama in 1982 to serve as the director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH). He led the department through 30 years of unprecedented growth until his retirement in 2012. During that time he greatly improved storage, environmental, and security systems for the department's valuable collection of records and artifacts. During his tenure the department's collections became more accessible to the public through computerized catalogs, a department website, and digital collections. He led the department to work cooperatively with other organizations to preserve Alabama newspapers and local government records. Under his leadership ADAH provided assistance to state and local agencies and promoted the establishment of over 40 local archives in communities across the state. Bridges expanded the department's educational commitment, establishing public lecture series and symposia and providing Alabama history curriculum material for teachers and students. At the end of his career, Bridges led a multi-million dollar project and fund-raising campaign to create the Museum of Alabama, which will continue to tell the story of Alabama history for years to come.

Ed Bridges has also been an active member and supporter of the Alabama Historical Association, serving as president, 1997–1998, and serving on committees and as a member of the Board of Directors. Throughout his tenure at ADAH, Bridges has dedicated agency resources in the form of staff time, facility use, and technology support toward making the AHA a more vibrant organization. During lean budget years in state government, when needs were many and dollars were few, Bridges maintained his belief that a healthy statewide historical community should include a membership organization with programs of interest to citizens throughout the state. As a result, he was agreeable to ADAH staff serving as officers, board members, committee members and chairs, and panelists at AHA annual meetings and pilgrimages. He has also been an active supporter of numerous other historical organizations and causes throughout the state.

The Alabama Historical Association is deeply grateful to Dr. Ed Bridges for his commitment to Alabama, for his passion for preserving and telling the story of Alabama, and for 30 years of vital institutional support for the Association.



Image of the ADAH, courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL.



Jerry Maxwell Posthumously Recognized

Jerry H. Maxwell (1942–2011) was a noted speaker on Civil War topics. His book *The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham* was selected as the winner of the AHA's 2013 James F. Sulzby Award, which recognizes excellence in a book published in the previous two years that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history.

An Alabama native, John Pelham left West Point for service in the Confederacy and distinguished himself as an artillery commander in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Lee is reported to have said of him, "It is glorious to see such courage in one so young!" Blond, blue-eyed, and handsome, Pelham's modest demeanor charmed his contemporaries, and he was famously attractive to women. He was killed in action at the battle of Kelly's Ford in March of 1863, at 24 years of age, and reportedly three young women of his acquaintance donned mourning at the loss of the South's "beau ideal."

Maxwell's work provides the first complete, deeply researched biography of Pelham, perhaps Alabama's most notable Civil War figure, and explains his enduring attraction.

Coley Research Award Granted

The Alabama Historical Association's Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant honors Judge and Mrs. Coley by awarding a $500 research fund to a graduate student working on an Alabama-related topic.

The Coley Award for the best work on Alabama local history goes to the best book or pamphlet focusing on local historical concerns, including but not limited to the history of an Alabama community, town or county, or any institution therein (church, business, non-profit, etc.). The Coley Award recipient for 2013 was Jeffrey Thomas Perry of Purdue University, and his topic was "From 'Disturbers' to Protectors of the Peace: Baptist Church Discipline and Legalities on the Trans-Appalachian Frontier, 1780–1865." The Coley Grant will be awarded again in 2015.



Highlights of the Annual Meeting

By Marty Olliff, Immediate Past President

Reports and observations indicate that the 2013 Annual Meeting in Eufaula was a hit. I thank the AHA officers, the Local Arrangements Committee led by Deborah Casey, Lakepoint State Park, and everyone who attended for this.

Two unusual things occurred there that merit special mention. The first is that C-SPAN 3 recorded our panel on Birmingham in 1963, which you can see at www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Birmingham. The second is the success of our first foray into poster sessions. While the AHA cannot guarantee a repetition of C-SPAN's coverage, it can continue the poster sessions into 2014. See the Call for Posters at www.alabamahistory.net.

Special thanks to Laura Hill for the excellent pictures. You can see many more of them on the AHA's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AlabamaHistory.










Tuskegee Airmen
HUGO BLACK OF ALABAMA







The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

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The AHA also recognizes members who have passed away in the last year:

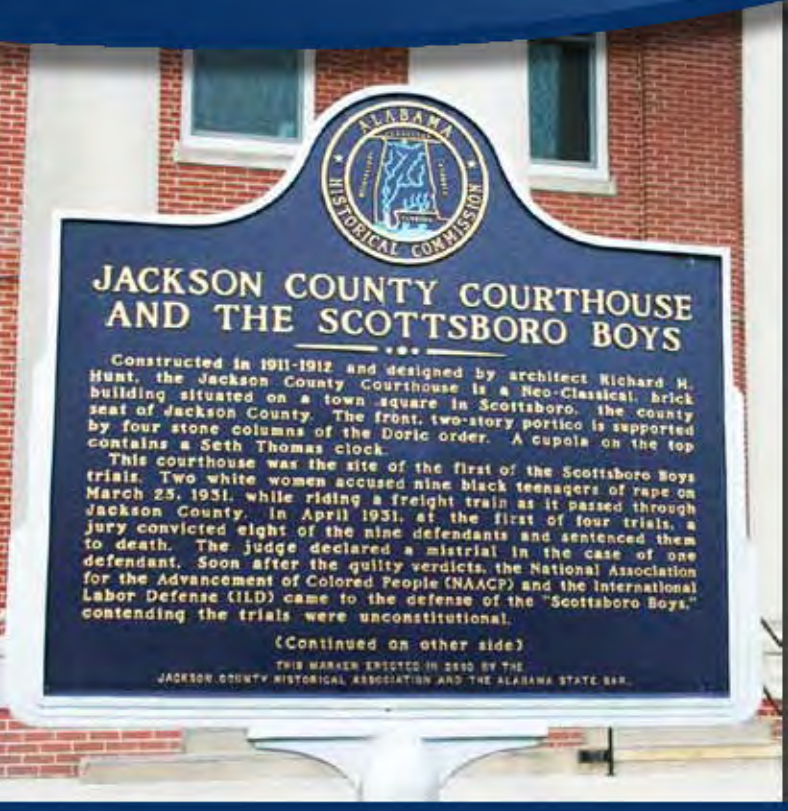
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AHA

Scottsboro, April 10–12, 2014

While it is known best for the infamous trial of the Scottsboro boys, this town on the Tennessee River in northeastern Alabama is also home to historical sites such as its 1856 railroad depot, a soda shop dating back to 1869, and the oldest trade day in the country. It is also home to numerous outdoor attractions, including Lake Guntersville, subterranean caves, and two championship golf courses. More information about the program, tours, and accommodations will be included in the AHA Spring 2014 Newsletter.

VOLUME 29
ISSUE 2 FALL 2014

Alabama Historical Association



Join us for the Fall Pilgrimage to Montevallo and Columbiana, October 10-11, 2014

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Cover Image: Historic Shelby County Courthouse. Image courtesy of Bobby Joe Seales, Shelby County Historical Society

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Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Lonnie Burnett

First of all, let me say what an honor it is to serve as president of the Alabama Historical Association for 2014-2015. When I look at the long list of former presidents, I see many notable names from our profession as well as some of my favorite people in general. Each of these presidents has contributed to the association in his or her unique way and we are a stronger group for their service. After a brief period of flat growth, the AHA is, once again, seeing an increase in its membership. A recent string of very successful gatherings has set the bar high for your leadership team. Particularly encouraging is the sight of young (a relative term as I get older) faces at our events. During the upcoming year, I hope to explore ways to reach out to some untapped markets to bring in the next generation of the AHA.

At the recent annual meeting in Scottsboro, I was involved in a conversation about the value of the Alabama Historical Association. Our group was in agreement that, in addition to the obvious professional and educational benefits, one of the most important aspects of the organization was that it exposes us to places and venues that, under normal circumstances, we would most likely never experience. Recent examples such as Lowndesboro, Eufaula, Horseshoe Bend, and even Scottsboro were offered as evidence. All agreed that were it not for the AHA, we would have missed out on a lot of good times as well as the opportunity to meet many great people.

This October, our members will have the chance to experience just such an opportunity. As a life-long resident of Alabama, I cannot count the number of times I have made the journey from Mobile, north on I-65, to Birmingham and beyond. It was not until last fall, however, that I veered off on exit 228 and made the short drive to Columbiana. I have never experienced such hospitality from people who are justifiably proud of their history. Our Fall Pilgrimage will take place on October 10 - 11 in south Shelby County. On Friday, we will explore the area west of I-65 in and around Montevallo. Professor Jim Day will lead walking tours of the historic University of Montevallo campus in the afternoon. Our friends at the American Village have opened up their impressive facility to us for guided tours in the late afternoon. In the evening, we will have a reception in Liberty Hall—a replica of the East Room of the White House. On Saturday we will invade downtown Columbiana. Bobby Joe Seales and the wonderful people of Columbiana have lined up a wonderful day in this charming community. Without giving away all of the details, let's just say the day will involve, among other things, an award-winning local history museum, the second largest collection of George Washington family artifacts (behind Mount Vernon) in the country, trolley rides, a quilting exhibit, and a train trip to a winery.

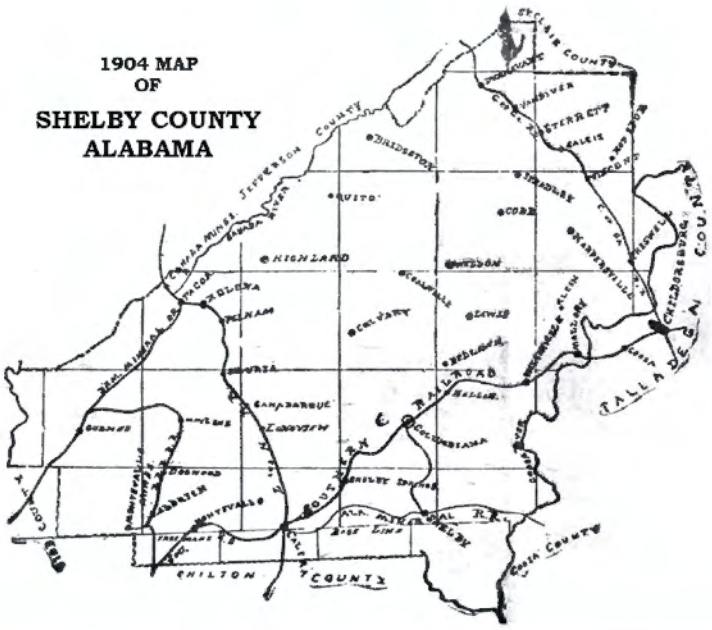
Again, I am most fortunate to get the chance to work with such a dedicated group of people and I look forward to seeing you all in Shelby County in October.

Shelby County to Host the Fall Pilgrimage

By Herbert James (Jim) Lewis, Board Member, Shelby County Historical Society

Comprising approximately 800 square miles, Shelby County lies at the southern end of the Appalachian mountain range and is located near the geographic center of the state. Shelby County was created by an act of the Alabama Territorial General Assembly on February 7, 1818, some two years before Alabama became a state. It was one of Alabama's largest counties, area wise, until the legislature began to pilfer portions of it to add to the successively created counties of St. Clair, Jefferson, Talladega, and Chilton. Today Shelby County is one of seven counties comprising the Birmingham-Hoover Metropolitan Area and is bounded by Jefferson and St. Clair counties to the north, by Talladega and Coosa counties to the east, and by Chilton and Bibb counties to the south and southwest.

This central Alabama county was named in honor of Isaac Shelby (1750–1826), a Revolutionary War hero of the Battle of King's Mountain and the first governor of Kentucky. The original county boundaries encompassed lands acquired from the Creek Indians in the 1814 Treaty of Fort Jackson following their defeat at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Most of the initial white settlers came from Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Many of them had served under General Andrew Jackson at Horseshoe Bend and returned with their families after the war in 1815 and 1816, settling in the Cahaba Valley near Shoal Creek. The first towns in the Cahaba Valley were Wilson's Hill (now Montevallo) and Shelbyville (now Pelham). People also began settling the Coosa Valley, particularly in the vicinity of Big Springs (now Harpersville) and Wilsonville.



Shelby County's court during the territorial period was located in Shelbyville at the home of William S. Wallace. Following statehood, Shelbyville became the first county seat, and in March 1820 the court approved construction of the county's first courthouse. This structure served as the county courthouse until 1826, when the decision was made to move the county seat and courthouse. Wilson's Hill and Columbia vied for the right to become the new county seat, and although Wilson's Hill was larger, Columbia was more centrally located and was supported by the residents of nearby Harpersville and Wilsonville. When Columbia was chosen as the new county seat, the celebratory explosions of gunpowder could be heard for miles. In 1832, the Alabama state legislature changed Columbia's name to Columbiana because the town of Columbia in Henry County laid prior claim to the name. An old wood-frame building served as the county courthouse until 1854, when it was replaced by a brick structure that today houses the Shelby County Museum and Archives. The present courthouse was constructed in 1906. In June 2006, the centennial celebration of the building included the opening of a time capsule placed in the cornerstone in 1906 by members of the Alabama Masonic Grand Lodge. The town placed a new time capsule in the space, to be opened in 2106.

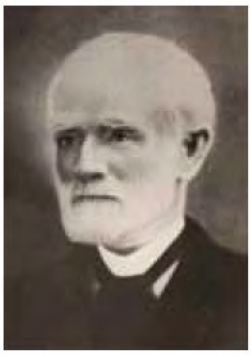


In October 1896 the Alabama Industrial School for Women was opened in Montevallo, where young women were trained to be teachers, artists, bookkeepers, and dressmakers, to name just a few, so that they could become self-supporting. The school went through several name changes until it settled upon Alabama College, State College for Women in 1923. Men began enrolling in the late 1950s, and in 1969 the school changed its name yet again to the University of Montevallo to reflect its expansion into a co-educational institution and its four distinct colleges (Arts and Sciences, Education, Business, and Fine Arts) were



established. Today, the University of Montevallo offers degree programs in more than 70 academic disciplines.

Until well into the twentieth century, farming was the prevailing occupation in Shelby County. Cotton dominated agriculture until about 1900, when farmers diversified into corn, wheat, peanuts, soybeans, and vegetables. Early white settlers also quickly began taking advantage of the abundant minerals in the area, particularly iron ore and coal. As early as 1825, a Shelby County settler established a forge for making iron bar on Shoal Creek near Montevallo. Iron production increased in the late 1840s, when Horace Ware established the Shelby Ironworks near Columbiana. This facility progressed from its modest beginnings in the 1840s into a significant industrial complex. By 1860, the Shelby Ironworks property contained a blast furnace, forge, foundry, school, church and homes housing several hundred people. During the Civil War, the Shelby Ironworks became a major supplier of iron to the Confederate Naval Arsenal in Selma until its furnace's blast engine and boilers were destroyed by a detachment of Wilson's Raiders on March 31, 1865, just before the war ended. After the war, Ware and John W. Lapsley attracted northern capital to rebuild the facility and to establish it as a nationally renowned for producing railroad-car iron. The Shelby Ironworks finally went out of production in August 1923.



Horace Ware

Its ruins are located on Highway 42 a few miles south of Columbiana, and an annual festival is held there each fall.

In 1851 William Phineas Browne, a lawyer and businessman from Vermont, began operating the state's first systematic underground coal mines near Montevallo in Shelby County. Browne lobbied hard for a rail line to be built to Montevallo so as to make it easier for him to get his coal to market. He reported to the Alabama and Tennessee Rivers Railroad Company that his land contained 1.6 million tons of coal. Although finally successful in obtaining a rail line to his property, Browne was frequently beset with labor problems due to the unreliability of free labor and the reluctance of owners to allow their slaves to be leased out to work underground. Nevertheless, by 1856 Browne was able to remove five tons of coal per day from his mines and Browne's business prospered as the Civil War approached. In 1858 he contracted to supply 1,000 tons of coal to the Montgomery Gas and Light Company, in the summer of 1861 in excess of 1,500 tram-loads of coal was extracted from his mines, and in 1862 he was under contract with the Confederate government to furnish it 4,000 tons of coal. The Civil War took its toll on Browne and his business interests. He reported to his northern friends and relatives that he lost at least a quarter of a million dollars due to the destruction inflicted by Wilson's Raiders during the last days of the war. Browne's failing health and a disagreement with his business partner in 1867 eventually ended the career of Alabama's pioneer of underground coal mining.



William Phineas Browne, Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Other minerals were important to the development of Shelby County besides coal and iron. Among these include limestone, which is important for smelting iron and cement manufacturing; barites used in making paints, paper, and



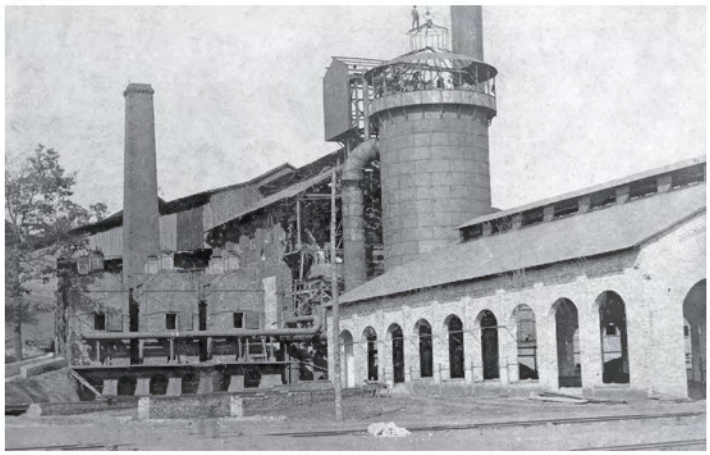


Photo credits: Bobby Joe Seales, Shelby County Historical Society

chemicals; and manganese used in the making of chemicals and steel.

Today, Shelby County offers a variety of attractions that cater to the interests of genealogists, and those interested in the history of both Shelby County and the nation as a whole. The Shelby County Museum & Archives and the Shelby County Historical Society, Inc. are located in the old courthouse in Columbiana. The building contains much more than old records, so those wanting to learn about the county's history will find many artifacts donated by Shelby County families, as well as a collection of historical books. One of the largest attractions in Shelby County is the American Village, located on Highway 119 just north of Montevallo. It is a multi-building complex that serves as a stage and theater for recreating the early American experiment in liberty and self-government. The village contains historical replicas of Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, as well as the nation's first executive mansion in Philadelphia and the White House Oval Office. Perhaps the most interesting, and yet least known attraction, is the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington located in the Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library in Columbiana which houses the largest collection of George and Martha (Custis) Washington memorabilia outside of Mount Vernon.

Other points of interest include the Aldrich Coal Mine Museum located near Montevallo, the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum in Calera, Old Town Helena, the Shelby Iron Works near Columbiana, and the Shelby Springs Confederate Cemetery between Columbiana and Calera. The Women's Missionary Union located in North Shelby County contains a publishing house, as well as artifacts from nearly every continent in the world. In early 2012, the Kenneth R. Penhale City of Helena Museum and the City of Chelsea Historical Museum opened.

Shelby County's diverse terrain offers many opportunities for recreational activities. Oak Mountain State Park in the northern part of the county is Alabama's largest state park. It encompasses almost 10,000 acres and provides visitors with such diverse activities as golfing, hiking, camping, canoeing, horseback riding, fishing, swimming, and mountain biking. Two of the state's major rivers run through the county: the Coosa River on the southeastern border and the Cahaba River in the north. The Cahaba is one of the most ecologically important rivers in the nation and is home to 113 species of fish, including the rare Cahaba Shiner, which is found nowhere else in the world. Numerous tributaries of the Coosa and Cahaba Rivers offer scenic views, including waterfalls and stands of Cahaba lilies. The Cahaba River Wildlife Management Area located on County Road 91 west of Helena consists of 41,500 acres and offers excellent opportunities for hunting and fishing. Lay Lake, a 12,000-acre lake, has 289 miles of shoreline and has served as the host site for the Bass Masters Classic Tournament.







Photo credits: The American Village Citizenship Trust, University of Montevallo

Friday Afternoon Walking Tour and Visit to The American Village

Dr. Jim Day, AHA Board Member and Professor of History at the University of Montevallo, will lead walking tours of the Montevallo Historic District at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 10. The district includes several nineteenth-century houses, including Reynolds Hall (1851), named for Captain Henry Clay Reynolds, a local merchant who served as the first president of the University of Montevallo. The historic district lies in the heart of the campus, and twenty-eight campus structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Attendees should meet Dr. Day at 2 p.m. at Jeter Hall (parking is available). Jeter Hall is located at 840 North Boundary Steet—the intersection of North Boundary and Oak Streets—adjacent to campus.

At 4:00 p.m., AHA members will enjoy a walking tour of The American Village, a nationally-pioneering classroom and American history and civics education center. Highlights of the campus include Washington Hall, inspired by George Washington's beloved Mount Vernon; the Colonial Courthouse; the Lucille Ryals Thompson Colonial Chapel, inspired by one of America's oldest churches, Bruton Parish Church of Williamsburg, Virginia; and a full-sized replica of the Oval Office, including an exact replica of the Resolute desk used by most Presidents since Rutherford Hayes. A pilgrimage reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Liberty Hall.



Reynolds Hall



Washington Hall



Perry Hall will be open to AHA visitors from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday, October 10. Built around 1834, Perry Hall was the manor house of an 800-acre plantation owned by Sion Jacob Perry III and his family. The City of Montevallo received the house as a gift from Elizabeth A. Mahler in 2013.

Image Credit: City of Montevallo

SATURDAY TOURS



The Shelby County Museum & Archives is maintained by the Shelby County Historical Society in the Historic Old Courthouse in Columbiana, which was built in 1854 and is designated a historic landmark by the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum displays many old Shelby County photographs and artifacts from the Indian era through World War II, including the bell from the Alabama, a well-known railroad engine during its time; Creek Indian artifacts; the 1906 Shelby County Courthouse cornerstone contents removed on June 24, 2006; and three chestnut wood cars and several feet of wood track found in the forgotten Confederate Gurnee Coal Mine in West Shelby County. Also on display is a serving for 12 of the Alabama College Wedgwood 50th Anniversary Reynolds Hall dinner plates, 1896-1946, and a serving for 12 teacups and saucers, introduced in 1949.

On October 11, the Museum will feature a special exhibit, "The Quilts of Shelby County," planned by quiltmaker and author Agnes M. Pool and additional local quilters. The exhibit will include quilts from each of the communities in Shelby County, antique and contemporary examples of the county's rich heritage in the art of quilting. Sheila Gallups, co-leader





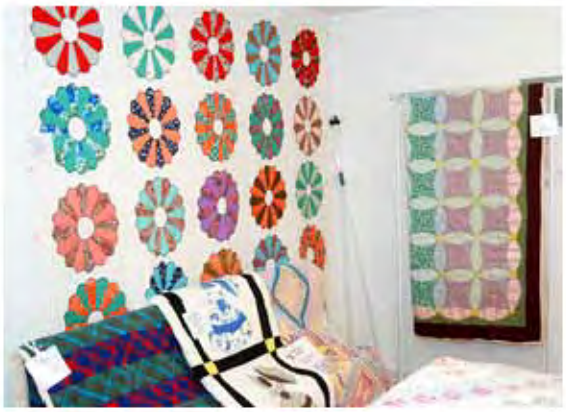
of The Alabama Chapter of Quilts for Kids, Inc., will be present, as well as a representative from Quilts of Valor.

Unless otherwise noted in the image file name, Photo credits: Bobby Joe Seales, Shelby County Historical Society









The Shelby County Arts Council will open its new exhibit "All Things Shelby County" on the Saturday afternoon of the pilgrimage. The fine art and photography exhibit will feature the work of ceramicist and sculptor Scott Meyer and photographers Hank Seigel, Paris Farzad, Rachel Fowler, and Stacy Gill Perry.











The Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington is home to one of the larger privately owned collections of George and Martha Washington artifacts in the United States. The collection contains paintings, letters, furniture, porcelain, glassware, silver, jewelry, busts and much more. Martha Washington's prayer book printed in New York in 1783, an original 1787 Samuel Vaughn sketch of Mt. Vernon grounds, writing instruments and tools from George Washington's survey case and an original tintype depicting Robert E. Lee in his uniform for the last time are just a few collection highlights (from www.washingtonmuseum.com)

Shelby Iron Works

Within the town of Shelby sits what used to be Alabama's largest charcoal blast furnace. Horace Ware bought the land that the furnace resides upon in the 1840s, and by the 1860s he had established on of the state's most impressive iron complexes. The site consisted of a forge, foundry, rolling mill, blast furnace, and community facilities, such as a school and church. The rolling mill was the first of its kind in the state, and it was capable of producing twelve tons of bar iron every day. The iron produced in Shelby was sent to places such as Talladega County, Jefferson County, Montgomery, Mobile, and Prattville. Additionally, during the Civil War, the complex shipped materials by rail to Selma for the Confederate Navy to use. Shelby Iron Works continued production until 1923, when it was unable to match the growth of competition.



Other photos are credited to Daniel Valles





Pig Iron bars founds near Irondale Furnace
Photo Credit: Eduard Smith

Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum

The Heart of Dixie Railroad Club, a chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, was organized about fifty years ago to preserve railroad history. Several railroad enthusiasts began the group after organizing for an event in the Birmingham area in 1962 that featured The General, a famous Civil War locomotive. The group worked to retain railroad items, such as train cars, from entities like as the Seaboard Air Line Railway and the Woodward Iron Company. They leased an area to store the items from the St. Louis – San Francisco Railway. That area is now Birmingham's Railroad Park. After facing problems with vandalism, the club decided it was time to purchase their own land in Calera. They purchased ten miles of the Alabama Mineral roadbed that ran from Calera to Shelby. The museum still works to acquire historical railroad memorabilia, and the Wilton Depot, which was moved from Wilton, Alabama, serves as the depot museum. Visitors have an opportunity to ride the Calera and Shelby Railroad.







Photo credits: Jimmy Summers, Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. — **Montevallo Historic District Walking Tour**
Led by Dr. Jim Day
University of Montevallo
Park and meet at Jeter Hall
(840 North Boundary Street)

2 – 4:00 p.m. — **Mahler House Open for Tours**
2679 Highway 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

4:00 p.m. — **Tour of The American Village**
3727 Alabama 119
Montevallo, AL 35115

6:00 p.m. — **Reception**
Liberty Hall
The American Village

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:00 a.m. — **Coffee and Book Sales**
Columbiana United Methodist Church
200 N. Main Street, Columbiana, Alabama 35051

10:00 a.m. — **Welcome**
Mayor Hollie Cost, Montevallo
Mayor Stancil Handley, Columbiana

"Diamonds in the Rough: A History of Alabama's Cahaba Coal Field,"
Dr. Jim Day, Professor of History, University of Montevallo

"Early Families of Shelby County."
Herbert James (Jim) Lewis, Board Member
Shelby County Historical Society

Overview of Tours
Bobby Joe Seales, Shelby County Historical Society

11:30 a.m. — **Lunch**

1 – 4:00 p.m. — **Tours**
Old Shelby County Courthouse
1854 Old Courthouse Circle, Columbiana, Alabama

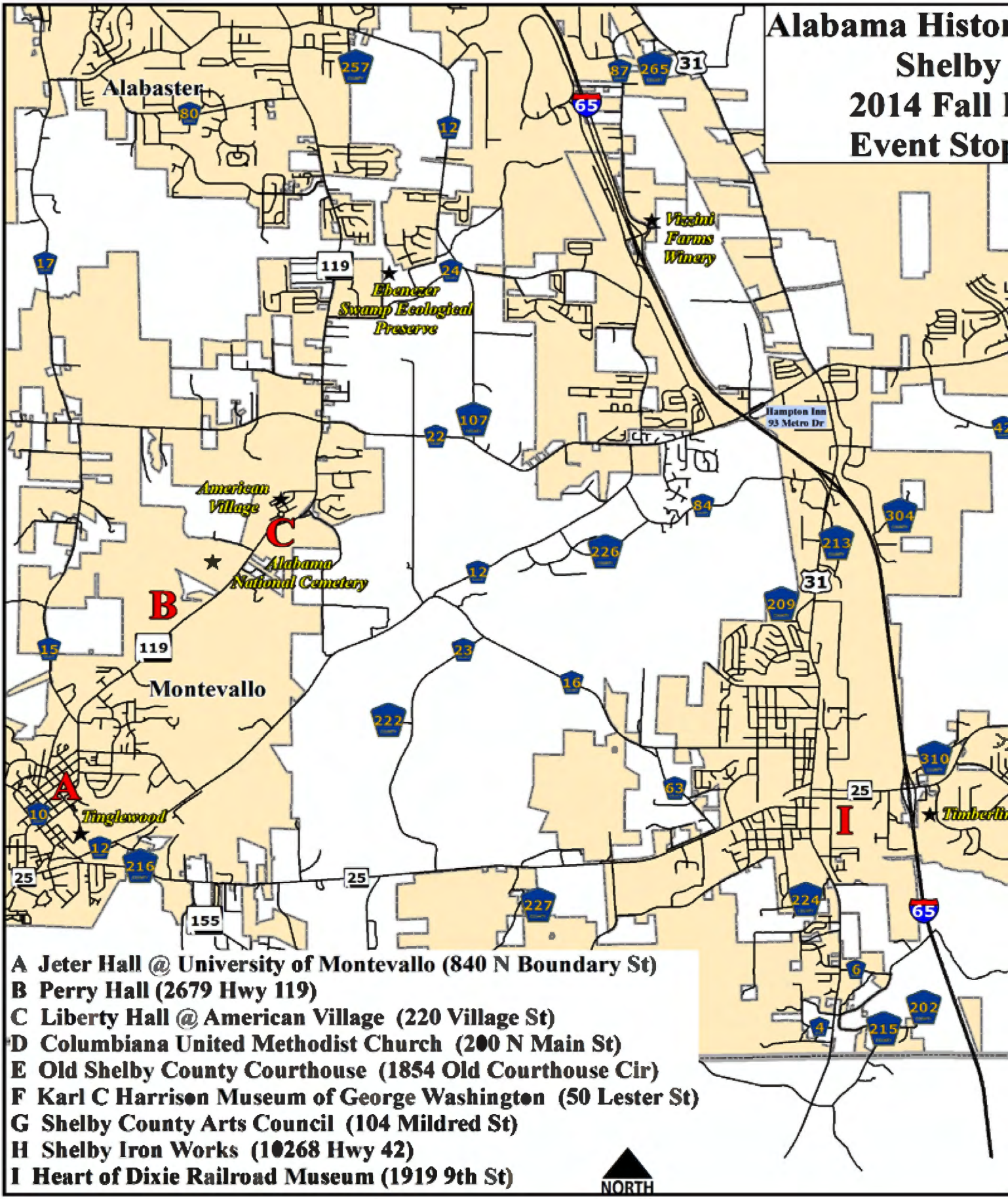
Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington
50 Lester Street, Columbiana, Alabama

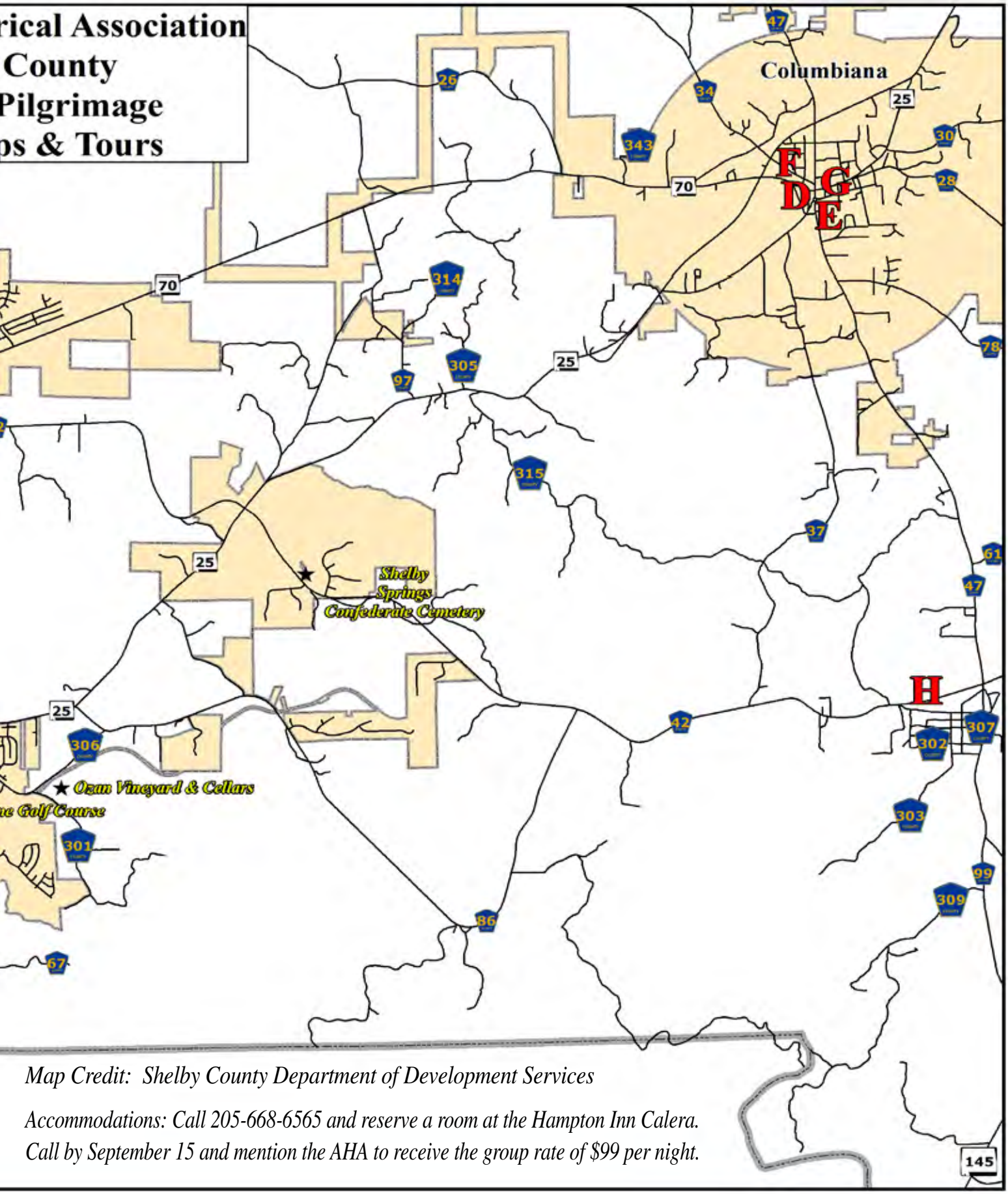
Shelby County Arts Council
104 Mildred Street, Columbiana, Alabama

Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum
1919 9th Street, Calera, Alabama

Shelby Iron Works
10268 County Road 42, Shelby, Alabama




Alabama Histor
Shelby
2014 Fall
Event Sto
Alabaster
Vizzini Farms Winery
Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve
Hampton Inn 93 Metro Dr
American Village
Alabama National Cemetery
Montevallo
Tinglewood
A
B
C
I
A Jeter Hall @ University of Montevallo (840 N Boundary St)
B Perry Hall (2679 Hwy 119)
C Liberty Hall @ American Village (220 Village St)
D Columbiana United Methodist Church (200 N Main St)
E Old Shelby County Courthouse (1854 Old Courthouse Cir)
F Karl C Harrison Museum of George Washington (50 Lester St)
G Shelby County Arts Council (104 Mildred St)
H Shelby Iron Works (10268 Hwy 42)
I Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum (1919 9th St)
NORTH



Map Credit: Shelby County Department of Development Services

Accommodations: Call 205-668-6565 and reserve a room at the Hampton Inn Calera. Call by September 15 and mention the AHA to receive the group rate of $99 per night.

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

"VOICES OF A DEEP SOUTH STATE: LIVING WITH ALABAMA'S PAST"

68TH ANNUAL MEETING
MOBILE, ALABAMA
APRIL 9-11, 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Alabama Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers and themed panels to be given at its 68th annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama, on April 9-11, 2015. Scholars, educators, public historians, local historians, students, and the general public are encouraged to submit proposals that focus on the history of Alabama. The AHA program committee would like to extend a special invitation to undergraduate and graduate students who have conducted original research and would like to present their work in a professional setting. Special consideration will be given to paper and panel proposals that incorporate this year's theme of "Voices of a Deep South State: Living with Alabama's Past."

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a twenty-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a CV or resume that includes the author's email address, telephone number, postal address, and academic or civic affiliation (if any). Electronic submissions are preferred for quicker response times and follow up questions.

Presenters will be required to register for the conference and be current members of the Alabama Historical Association by the time of the meeting. The committee gives preference to authors who have not presented papers at the annual meeting within the past three years.

Please send your submissions and any questions you may have to the program committee chair at:

Dr. John F. Kvach
Department of History, UAH
409 Roberts Hall
Huntsville, AL 35899

Or email proposals and/or inquires to: john.kvach@uah.edu

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: NOVEMBER 2, 2014



Scotty Kirkland and Jim Day

CLINTON JACKSON COLEY BOOK AWARD

The winner of the 2014 Clinton Jackson Coley Book Award for best work on Alabama local history is *Diamonds in the Rough: A History of Alabama's Cahaba Coal Field*, by James Sanders Day. The book reconstructs the historical moment that defined the Cahaba Coal Field, a mineral-rich area that stretches across sixty-seven miles and four counties of central Alabama.

"It's a special honor to receive the Coley Award because of its focus on local history," says Day. "My intent was not just to write a technological history of an extraction industry, but to give voice to the people who did the work. Diamonds in the Rough represents a quarter-century of research, and I trust that I have done justice to the thousands of miners and their families who lived and died in the Cahaba Coal Field."

JAMES RAY KUYKENDALL AWARD

The Tallapoossee Historical Society is the winner of the 2014 James Ray Kuykendall Award honoring an exceptional local historical society. THS president Bob Daniel accepted the award at the annual meeting in Scottsboro. AHA President Gayle Thomas noted the Society's many accomplishments, which include the erection of historic markers, the publication of books on the history of Tallapoosa County, a quarterly newsletter, and the establishment of a museum.

"The quarterly meetings of the Tallapoossee Historical Society are always interesting and informative," President Thomas stated. "Fundraising has included an antique show and sale, and for the past nine years the annual fundraiser has been a Christmas Tour of Homes, which has allowed the purchase of the building adjacent to the museum for future expansion."



Bob Daniel

MILO B. HOWARD AWARD

The Milo B. Howard Award is for the best article published in *The Alabama Review* for a two-year period. The winners of the 2014 award include:

- Scotty Kirkland, "Mobile and the Boswell Amendment" (July 2012)
- Charles Roberts, "New Deal Community – Building in the South: The Subsistence Homesteads around Birmingham, Alabama" (April 2013)
- Kristopher Teters, "Albert Burton Moore and Alabama's Centennial Commemoration of the Civil War: The Rhetoric of Race, Romance, and Reunion" (April 2013)



Above: Mississippi and Virginia governors join Governor John Patterson in his office during the Civil War Centennial, February 18, 1961. Courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery.



Left: John L LeFlore, courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama.

Below: Carl Mydans, "Palmerdale Homestead boys working a watermelon patch near their house." Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.



2015 NOMINATIONS

Nominations Sought for 2015 Awards

- The **James F. Sulzby Book Award** recognizes excellence in a book published in the previous two years that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history. Books published between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 are eligible. Please send three copies of each book submission to the following committee chair by **January 15, 2015**:

 J. Bradley Creed
 Sulzby Book Award Committee
 800 Lakeshore Drive
 Birmingham, AL 35229

- The **Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant** provides $500 to a graduate student conducting research on an Alabama-related topic. Applications should include a statement of the student's intended plan of work, a letter of reference from the chairman of the department in which the student is enrolled, and/or a letter of reference from the student's major professor. Electronic submissions are welcome. Please submit nominations by **February 15** to:

 Mark Palmer
 Alabama Department of Archives and History
 P.O. Box 300100
 Montgomery AL 36130-0100
 mark.palmer@archives.alabama.gov

- The **Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award** honors contributions to Alabama history that promote appreciation and better understanding of Alabama history among the general public.

 Nomination packets should include a letter of nomination (not to exceed two pages) that outlines the nominee's accomplishments; supporting materials and documentation of accomplishments; letters of support (not to exceed five).

 Please submit nomination packets by **January 15, 2015** to:

 Dr. Donna Cox Baker
 Alabama Heritage
 Box 870342
 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
 donna.baker@ua.edu

Make Plans Now for the
68TH ANNUAL MEETING IN MOBILE!

The History Museum of Mobile will host the AHA annual meeting April 9-11, 2015. Highlights include a special lecture by Robert Bradley of the Alabama Department of Archives and History on the Battle of Blakely, which will take place on April 9, the 150th anniversary of the battle. Dr. William J. Cooper, Boyd Professor of History at the Louisiana State University will deliver a banquet keynote address at the historic Battle House Hotel.

Tours will include historic churches, the Conde-Charlotte House, a Mobile civil rights tour, and others. Reserve your hotel room now at the Hampton Inn by calling 251-436-8787.

Image Caption: Dauphin Street, circa 1930. Courtesy of the History Museum of Mobile.



Scottsboro:

Photos from the Annual Meeting

Gayle Thomas, Immediate Past President

The unique diversity of Jackson County just seemed to beckon to AHA for an annual meeting site, and the fact that AHA had never met in Scottsboro before was an added impetus. Ann Chambless had mentioned to Steve Murray at the annual meeting in Huntsville her desire for the Jackson County Historical Association to host an annual meeting. From this casual conversation came a very memorable and well attended event.

The challenges of holding a meeting in a small town such as Scottsboro, with a population of approximately 16,000, were met and exceeded by the Local Arrangements committee: Ann Chambless, chair, Jen Stewart, Susan Fisher, Kelly Goodowens, Judge John H. Graham, Reid Henshaw, Sandra Patton, and a host of volunteers. We not only enjoyed local historical preservation efforts, but also experienced firsthand the civic pride, warm hospitality, and the can-do spirit of the citizens of Jackson County, Stevenson, and Scottsboro.

Chris McIlwain and his program committee put together an interesting program and Alabama Public Television popped in to film snippets. The "Making History Public" workshop was as well received in Scottsboro as it was in Eufaula and I hope this will become another AHA tradition.

Special thanks to my local arrangements committee and to Laura Hill for her wonderful photographs. No expression of thanks would be complete without mentioning our secretary, Mark Wilson, who helped make the meeting a success.

Serving as president this year has been a wonderful learning experience and I enjoyed every minute of it. Steve Murray said it best when he said, "About the time you learn your job, your time is up."

Photo credits: Laura Hill, Opelika





























The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Dauphin Street, circa 1925. Courtesy of the History Museum of Mobile.

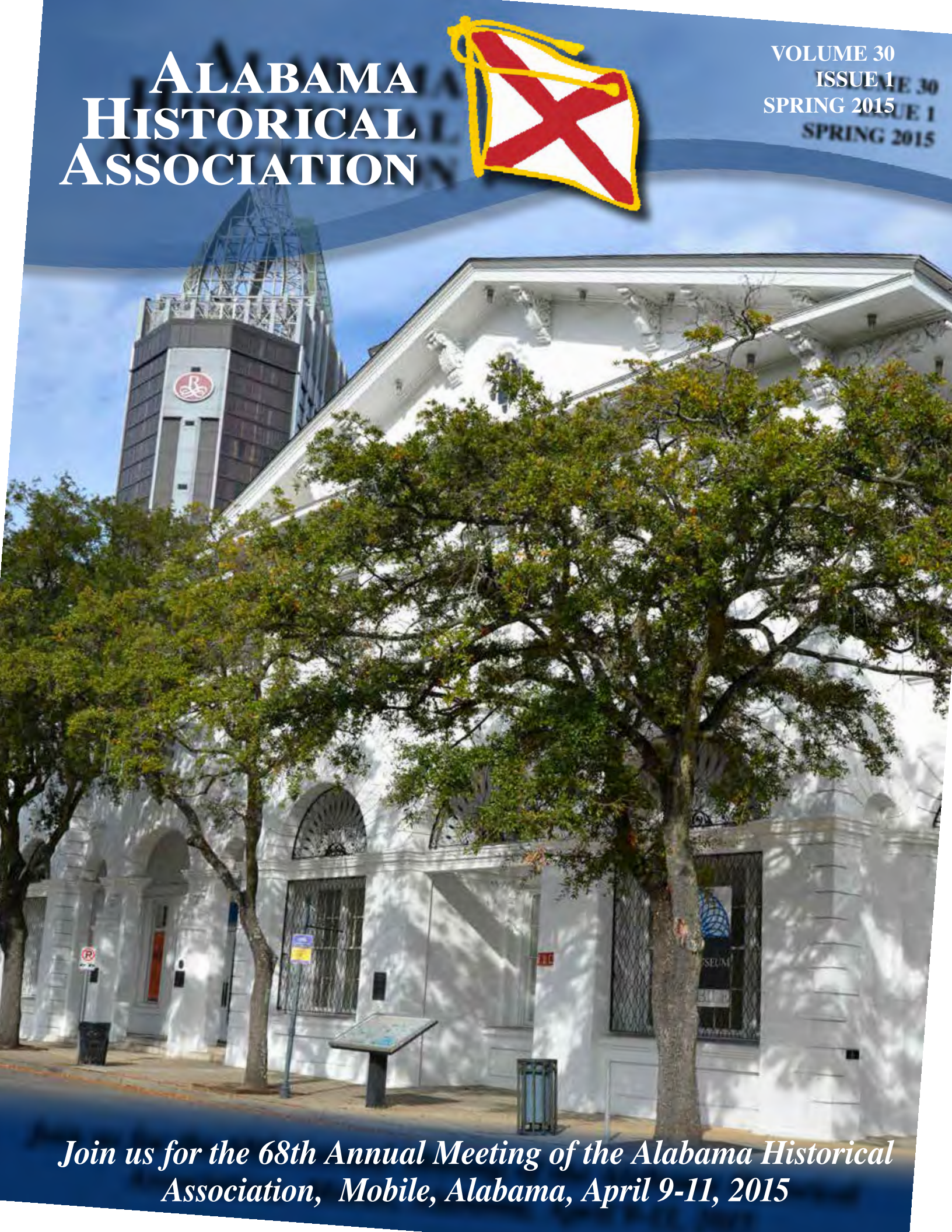
68th ANNUAL MEETING

April 9-11, 2015
Mobile, Alabama

Reserve your hotel room now at the Hampton Inn by calling 251-436-8787.

Alabama Historical Association

VOLUME 30
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2015



Join us for the 68th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association, Mobile, Alabama, April 9-11, 2015

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Cover image: History Museum of Mobile, Courtesy of History Museum of Mobile.

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The AHA Newsletter is designed and printed by Davis Direct, Montgomery, Alabama.

Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Lonnie Burnett

In an 1860 *Debow's Review* article, a visitor to Mobile noted that, in the port city, "the fine climate, the suburban attractions, and the creation of a thousand allurements, that cluster around social life, have operated much in her favor." Another 19th-century resident summed up the prevailing local attitude by claiming that "there is no more delectable city on all the Gulf of Mexico than Mobile." Indeed, Mobilians have been bragging about their city for over three centuries. Today Mobile is a community proud of its past yet also looking to the future. On any given day in the city, you can sit on the porch of an antebellum home and see the navy's most modern destroyers being assembled across the river or stroll along the wall of a re-created colonial fort and observe the construction of the nation's newest aircraft assembly plant.

As president of the Alabama Historical Association, it will be my pleasure to welcome you to my hometown of Mobile this April 9-11 where I believe you will enjoy many of the aforementioned "allurements." Although the Association will be hard-pressed to top the hospitality shown to us by our friends in south Shelby County at the Fall Pilgrimage, the local arrangements committee in Mobile has gone to great lengths to roll out the welcome mat as you experience our 300-year-old community. The program committee has had the (pleasant) problem of having to sort through a large number of quality paper proposals. The wonderful staffs of the History Museum of Mobile as well as the other local historic venues have been more than gracious in opening their facilities and are anxiously awaiting your visit.

Our spring meeting will coincide with the official end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Locally, it will also mark the 150th anniversary of the Siege of Spanish Fort, the Battle of Blakeley and the surrender of Mobile. As such, we have several special features planned. Our traditional Thursday night reception will be sandwiched between two "bonus" presentations. For the early arrivers, Frye Gaillard will present a talk entitled "Journey to the Wilderness: War, Memory, and a Southern Family's Civil War Letters." After the reception, Bob Bradley will speak on "The Siege and Reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely." Additionally, during the Friday afternoon tours, we have arranged for several "tour talks" for those that want a more in-depth experience at the selected sites. Perhaps the highlight of the weekend will be our annual banquet. This event will be held at the historic Battle House Hotel and will feature LSU's award-winning historian William J. Cooper, Jr. There is even a rumor of a late night tour of the Dauphin Street entertainment district.

For the most part, this will be a walking event. Plan to arrive early on Thursday, park your car, and enjoy three days of great programs, venues, and Mobile hospitality. If you have not been to downtown area lately, you are in for a treat. I am honored to serve as your president and I look forward to seeing you all in Mobile.

History Museum of Mobile Hosts Association's Return to Alabama's Port City

By Scotty E. Kirkland

A lingering fog hovered above the river as journalist Edward King made his way into Mobile on a stagecoach along the Old Shell road in the spring of 1873. From the carriage, he peered through the light haze as the pace of the horses quickened near the city's main thoroughfare. The waterfront emerged from the fog, giving King what he called "a dimly seen vision" of the bustling harbor, the artery of a southern seaport slowly emerging from more than a decade of war and Reconstruction. The sights and smells of the little city surrounded him:

"The delicate hint of infinity on the mingled wave and haze-horizon; the memories of siege and battle, awakened by the sight of the dim line of Blakely coast; the penetrating perfume wafted from magnolias and pines; the soul clarifying radiance of the sunshine, which industriously drove away the light mist, all conspired to surround me with an enchantment not dispelled until I had once more gained the streets of the town."

As members of the Alabama Historical Association gather for the group's tenth meeting in Mobile, many will catch a similar glimpse of the faraway city. A fleeting glance from the apex of the Delta Bridge, or the panoramic scene at the beginning of the I-10 Bayway, reveals the Port City's smattering of skyscrapers in the distance, appearing to have sprung up like a kind of curious foliage from the marsh alongside the river that gave the place its name. One wonders what Edward King might have thought of such colossal steel structures.

Mobile, three centuries-rich in its own historical associations, seems an appropriate meeting site, indeed, for the oldest organization committed to preserving Alabama history. The city and the surrounding region boast a complex, and often eminently colorful array of characters, from the Native American chieftains who called the area home for centuries, to the Brothers Le Moyne and the hardscrabble settlers who followed them in the name of the king, each of them forming a tapestry of life in this once remote frontier. Here was the place where Robert Farmar dreamt of a British empire in the New World, and where the cannonades of Bernado Galvez brought these dreams to their destructive end. A place marked by the footprints of explorers, from La Salle to Andrew Ellicott, and by the eager thousands who later descended the Federal Road, caught up in "Alabama fever." Later in the mid-twentieth century, the onslaught began anew, this time ignited by the promise of wartime employment. These settlers of a new age flooded into the city like a torrent of water, and left in their wake a trampled town, the victim of a kind of human hurricane. The end of the war left a dramatically changed city, with a complex history of race relations and internecine struggles for control between the newcomers and the Old Guard. Modern Mobile is a city of contradiction, an ever-changing, quixotic seaport, embracing its continued opportunities for greatness although seemingly encased at times in Antebellum amber.



There may be no more appropriate host for the Association's return to Mobile than the History Museum of Mobile, located in the Old City Hall/Southern Market, a beautifully-restored Italianate structure that has commanded the corner of South Royal and Church streets for more than 150 years. Commissioned in 1855, city leaders intended the dual-purpose facility to be "an ornament to the city." Through a never-ending array of change, through wars and storms both political and real, the venerable old building has remained. Since 2001 it has served as the home of the History Museum of Mobile. Old City Hall, gleaming white and trimmed in ornate black iron lace, now holds the history of south Alabama, building from a core collection of over 100,000 artifacts.

Members of the Association will find quite an array of new offerings at the History Museum, but none







more arresting than its year-long exhibition marking the museum's fiftieth anniversary, *Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia*. This colorful exhibit follows artist Roderick D. MacKenzie, who grew up in Mobile, on his twelve-year sojourn through India near the turn of the twentieth century. The History Museum's exhibition, and accompanying book, offers the first exhaustive exploration into the artist's time in India, a country he described as exotic, colorful, and dangerous. The exhibition includes a replica of the masterwork of MacKenzie's career, an eighteen-foot painting depicting the coronation of Edward VII as king of England and emperor of India. Returning to America in 1913, Alabama scenes filled the final decades of MacKenzie's life, but the people of India remained a lifelong muse.

A chronicle of a different kind will accompany the MacKenzie exhibit. In March, the History Museum will mark the fifth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with an exhibition that serves as a poignant reminder of those horrific months when the waters of the Gulf teemed not with life, but with deadly thick, black tar. More than twenty local artists and students will lend their works to this exhibit entitled, *What's at Stake?*, designed to remind visitors of the beauty and the uniqueness of the Gulf region, and the necessity of its protection.

Several years ago, the History Museum hosted an exhibition of wreckage from the World Trade Center on the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks. It seemed equally important to the staff to mark the fifth anniversary of the oil spill, another story in our recent past that shapes our everyday lives, and that does not yet have an ending.

Complementing these highlights, members of the Association will find several new additions to the museum's permanent displays, including the Semmes gallery, which features one of the cannons recovered from the wreckage of the *CSS Alabama*, captained by the irascible Raphael Semmes. On the second floor, visitors can explore the new Mary Jane Slaton Inge Gallery. Named in memory of one of the museum's longest-serving volunteers and most-loyal patrons, the Inge Gallery features some of the museum's finest pieces, including Boehm porcelain, Baccarat crystal, Limoges china, as well as souvenirs from several of Mobile's oldest mystic societies.





The walls of the museum's auditorium are now home to its newest permanent display, a portrait gallery entitled, *Faces of Mobile*. Visitors will find a diverse array of Mobilians upon these walls, men and women both famous and obscure, including the founder of Mobile's modern Carnival revelry, Joe Cain; civil rights activist

John LeFlore; Antebellum socialite Octavia LeVert; African American businessman and journalist A.N. Johnson; New South merchant Leopold Hammell; and Mary Fenollosa, author of books on Mobile and Imperial Japan. The History Museum envisions a long and bright future for the *Faces* gallery, including a forthcoming publication, and an online collaboration with our colleagues at the Encyclopedia of Alabama.



Across the street from the History Museum, members of the Association will find a renovated Fort Condé. When the History Museum took over operation of the replica French fort several years ago it was clear that this venerable downtown tourist trap had seen better days. Little had been done to the facility since its dedication in 1976 as part of the American Bicentennial. After long delays, including two hurricanes, the facility has been restored to serve a much greater purpose as the History Museum's colonial history wing and the center of its education department. New exhibits grace the main room, with additional developments planned for the coming year.

The future is bright, indeed, for the History Museum of Mobile, and the lion's share of the credit goes to its director, and longtime Association member, David E. Alsobrook. In his eight years at the History Museum, Alsobrook has encouraged a return to more in-house exhibitions, better public programs, and more focused educational opportunities for the region's schoolchildren. Alsobrook was responsible for the decision to produce *Ark of India* as a traveling exhibition, launching a string of planned rentable exhibits on topics as diverse as the New Deal in Alabama, south Alabama's notorious outlaws, and the experiences of south Alabamians during the Great War. These exhibitions, combined with a new publications division and exciting public programs bode well for an institution entering its fiftieth year.

In the fall of 2014, these efforts were aided tremendously by Mobile Mayor William S. Stimpson, who removed the History Museum's admission fees, ensuring, to our delight, that nothing stands in the way of Mobile's families and visitors from reaping the benefits of what the History Museum of Mobile has to offer. The results have been truly amazing.



We at the History Museum of Mobile are proud to host their friends and colleagues from the Alabama Historical Association as they return to the old seaport. Mobile has many names, some more apt than others. Eugene Walter called it "sweet lunacy's county seat." Henry Miller preferred "Mozart for the mandolin." It's the Port City, the Azalea City, Cotton City, the City of Perpetual Potential, the Passive-Aggressive Capital of the World (that one's mine), and the City of Five Flags. It's the birthplace of American Mardi Gras – and don't you forget it – and a host of pirates, politicians, poets, and pugilists, the denizen of scoundrels and scriveners alike.

It's home, and we welcome you back to it.



Scotty E. Kirkland is Curator of History at the History Museum of Mobile and a member of the AHA Board of Directors.

Images courtesy of History Museum of Mobile.

68th ANNUAL MEETING
of the Alabama Historical Association
April 9-11, 2015 • Mobile, Alabama

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. **MAKING HISTORY PUBLIC WORKSHOP**
History Museum of Mobile, Classroom

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **PRE-MEETING TOURS**
Fort Condé
Guided Tours of the History Museum of Mobile

5:00 p.m. **BOOK TALK:** Frye Gaillard, *Journey to the Wilderness: War, Memory, and a Southern Family's Civil War Letters*
History Museum of Mobile, Second Floor Auditorium

6:00 p.m. **RECEPTION**
History Museum of Mobile, First Floor

7:30 p.m. **CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL FEATURE**
"Mobile 1865: The Siege and Reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely"
Robert Bradley, Alabama Department of Archives and History
History Museum of Mobile, Second Floor Auditorium

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION, COFFEE**
Christ Church Cathedral

9:00 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION**
Christ Church Cathedral

10:45 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
History Museum of Mobile

Session A: Mobile's Roots

- "Widow's Row and the Mobile Female Benevolent Society, 1829-1865," Rachel Powell, Auburn University
- "Appearance and Experience: An Exploration of the Side Hall With Wing Houses of Mobile, Alabama," Cartledge Blackwell, III, Mobile Historic Development Commission
- "Jones Mitchell Withers: The Unsung Hero of Three Wars and Popular Mayor of Mobile," John Allen, Huntsville

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 *Continued*

Session B: The World Wars and Alabama

- "Forgotten Voices of the Great War: Remembering the Alabama Wildmen of the Rainbow Division," Nimrod T. Frazer, Montgomery
- "A Diarrhea of Plans and Constipations of Action: The Influence of Alabama Cotton Farmers, Merchants, and Brokers on Anglo-American Diplomacy during the First World War, 1914-1915," Ryan Floyd, Lander University
- "To Help Business and Alabama Grow Together: Economic Development in Alabama in the World War II Era," Matthew Downs, University of Mobile

Session C: Crime and Punishment in Alabama

- "We Crave to Become a Vital Force in this Community: Crime, Police Brutality, and African-American Activism in Birmingham, Alabama, 1928-1938," Brandon Jett, University of Florida
- "The Civil Rights Movement in Perry County," Valerie Burnes, University of West Alabama
- "White, Black, and Blue: The Battle Over Black Police, Professionalization, and Police Brutality in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963- 1967," Bryan Kessler, University of Mississippi

Session D: Emerging Scholars in Alabama

- "In the Cross Hall: Dr. James Searcy, Bryce Hospital, and the Madness of Woman Called Andrew Sheffield," Thomas Bockhorn, University of Alabama in Huntsville
- "Latter-Day Saint Beginnings in Alabama," Adam Petty, University of Alabama
- "The Team that Never Lost a Game: Monday Morning Quarterback Club and the Crippled Children's Foundation," Beth Hunter, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Noon — **LUNCH**
Fort Condé

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. — **FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOURS**

- Guided Tours – History Museum of Mobile
- Magnolia Cemetery, Tour Talk at 2:00 p.m.
- Government Street Presbyterian Church
- Cathedra-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Tour Talk at 3:00
- Condé-Charlotte Museum House

6:00 p.m. — **COCKTAIL HOUR**
Battle House Hotel

7:00 p.m. — **ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

- Battle House Hotel
- Keynote address: "Jefferson Davis and the Meaning of the War," by Dr. William Cooper, Jr., Louisiana State University

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:45 a.m. **REGISTRATION, COFFEE, BOOK SALES**
History Museum of Mobile Lobby

9:45 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION**
History Museum of Mobile, Second Floor Auditorium

10:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session A: The Impending Crisis and Its Legacy

- "Free Versus Slave Labor: An Industrial Conflict in Antebellum Auburn," Ralph Draughon, Jr., Auburn
- "Amusement-Hungry City: Mobile Under Threat by Union Forces, 1864-1865," Harriet Amos Doss, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- "Searching for Freedom: Klansman, Carpetbagger, Scalawag, and Freedman," Guy Hubbs, Birmingham-Southern College

Session B: Alabama's Past, Present, and Future: Planning for Alabama's Bicentennial

- Keith Hebert, Auburn University
- Carolyn Barske, University of North Alabama
- Jay Lamar, Alabama Bicentennial Commission

Session C: A Life in Color: A Retrospective of the Career of Artist Roderick D. MacKenzie

- Scotty Kirkland, History Museum of Mobile
- Marlene Rikard, Samford University
- Jacob Laurence, History Museum of Mobile

Session D: Alabama's Contested Roots

- "The Alabama Campaign of 1965: A Student Crusade for Voting Rights," Howard Robinson, Alabama State University
- "Defining an African Heritage in Alabama," Justin Rudder, ADAH
- "Working Together For a Common Good: Latino and White Interaction in DeKalb County, 1950-1970," Christopher Davis, Birmingham

Noon: **ANNUAL LUNCHEON**
Centre for the Living Arts
Presidential Address by Dr. Lonnie Burnett

MEETING SITES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

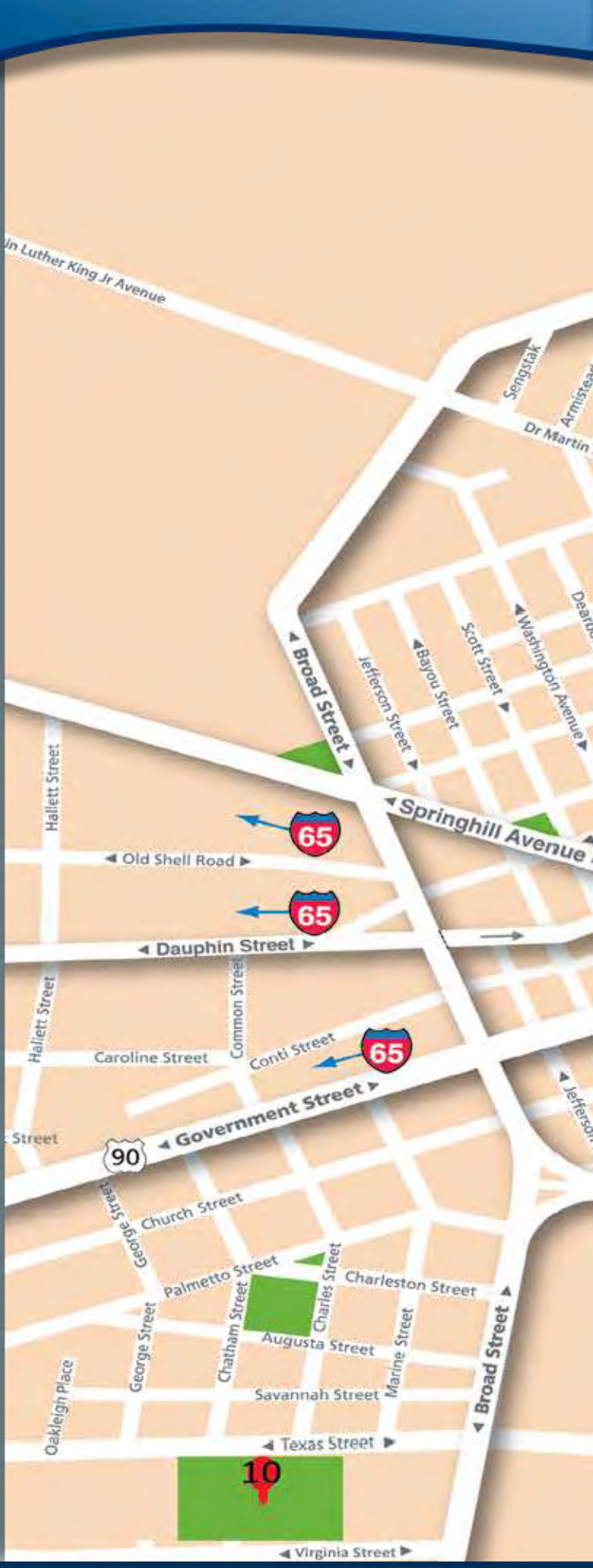
MAP KEY

1. **History Museum of Mobile**
 111 South Royal Street
2. **Hampton Inn**
 62 South Royal Street
3. **Fort Condé**
 150 South Royal Street
4. **Condé-Charlotte Museum House**
 104 Theatre Street
5. **Battle House Hotel**
 26 North Royal Street
6. **Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception**
 2 South Claiborne Street
7. **Christ Church Cathedral**
 115 South Conception Street
 (off Church Street)
8. **Gov. Street Presbyterian**
 300 Government Street
9. **Centre for the Living Arts**
 301 Conti Street
10. **Magnolia Cemetery**

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hampton Inn & Suites Mobile
Downtown Historic District

Book your room by March 9 and mention the AHA to receive a special rate of $110 per night. You may call the hotel directly at 251-436-8787 or register online at www.mobiledowntown.hamptoninn.com




TO
65
165
GM & O Building
WAVE Transit
Transportation Center
Beauregard Street
Water Street
Adams Street
Congress Street
U.S. Post Office
Chestnut
Turstall
Cleveland
Luther King Jr Avenue
State Street
Hamilton Street
Joachim Street
Conception Street
St. Joseph Street
Royal Street
St. Anthony St
St. Louis Street
Warren Street
Cedar Street
Lawrence Street
Franklin Street
Claiborne Street
Jackson Street
MOBILE RIVER
To Cochran Bridge
Bay Bridge Road
ALT 90
Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center
Wild Native Tours
Bankhead Tunnel
St. Michael Street
St. Francis Street
Dauphin Street
Conti Street
St. Emanuel St
George C. Wallace Tunnel
10
27
Government Street
Dunlap Dr
Addse
Ben May Public Library
Church Street
Civic Center Drive
Theatre
Monroe
Royal St
St. Emanuel
Mobile Alabama Cruise Terminal
26B
Water St. Exit
Water St. Exit
Water St.
Monroe Street
Eslava Street
S. Jackson Street
Claiborne Street
Canal Street
Canal Street
26A
South Royal Street
St. Emanuel
10
25A
Texas Street
Texas Street
1
2
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9

Making History Public Workshop to Feature Publishers on April 9

On Thursday, April 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the History Museum of Mobile classroom, learn about publishing Alabama history from the staff of *Alabama Heritage, The Alabama Review,* Encyclopedia of Alabama, NewSouth Books, and the University of Alabama Press. Anyone interested in publishing historical research is invited to attend this workshop. Although there is no charge to attend, please register online at www.alabamahistory.net.

The Making History Public Workshop is co-sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University and the Center for Public History at University of Alabama Huntsville.



Attendees at the 2014 Making History Public Workshop, Scottsboro Depot Museum

History Museum and Fort Condé

Open on Thursday Afternoon

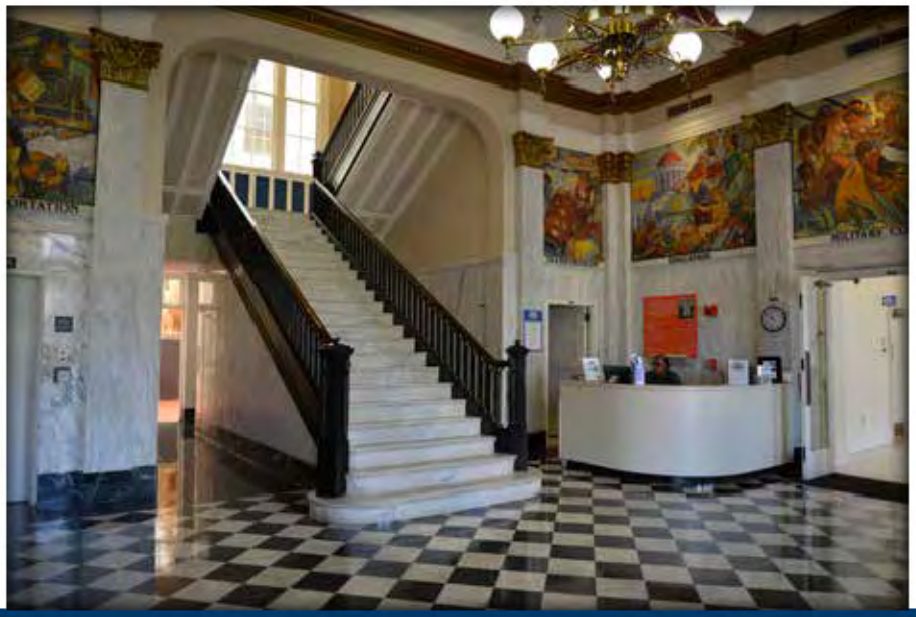
On Thursday afternoon, as part of their regular business hours, staff members will offer guided tours at the History Museum of Mobile, including *Ark of India*, the museum's current anchor exhibit chronicling Roderick MacKenzie's time in India. Staff will also conduct tours of the museum's *Faces of Mobile* portrait gallery, the Mary Jane Inge Gallery, which features some of the finest pieces in its collection, and the Semmes Gallery, which features several artifacts recovered from the wreckage of the CSS *Alabama*.

Across the street, at the recently renovated Fort Condé, staff will discuss Mobile's Colonial roots and provide a glimpse into the upcoming exhibitions that will complete the first retrofit of the fort since it opened in 1976.

Fort Condé will remain open until 4:30 p.m. and the History Museum of Mobile will be open until 5:00 p.m. The History Museum will host a book talk with Frye Gaillard at 5:00 p.m., followed by the AHA's reception at 6:00 p.m. The History Museum of Mobile and Fort Condé will also be open during the Friday afternoon tour sessions, and a schedule of exhibit tours will be available on site.





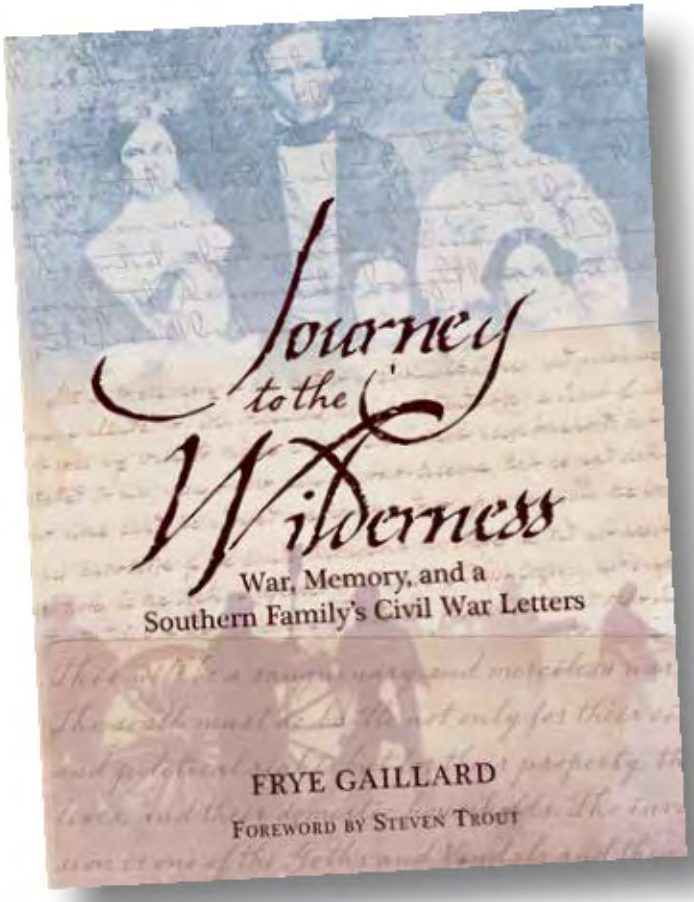


Award-Winning Author Frye Gaillard to Discuss *Journey to the Wilderness*



On Thursday, April 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the second floor auditorium of the History Museum of Mobile, author Frye Gaillard will discuss his latest book *Journey to the Wilderness: War, Memory, and a Southern Family's Civil War Letters*.

In the book, Gaillard reflects on the war—and the way we remember it—through the lens of letters written by family members, including great-great grandfather, Thomas Gaillard and Thomas's sons, Franklin and Richebourg, both of whom were Confederate officers. As Gaillard explains in his deeply felt introductory essay to *Journey to the Wilderness*, he came of age in a Southern generation that viewed the war as a glorious lost cause. But as he read through family letters collected and handed down, he confronted a far more sobering truth and offers a personal critique of the haunted identity of the South.



Frye Gaillard is Writer in Residence at the University of South Alabama and the award-winning author of more than twenty books, including *Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement That Changed America*, winner of the Lillian Smith Award. *Journey to the Wilderness* is published by NewSouth Books and will be available for purchase and signing.

Images courtesy of NewSouth Books

Robert Bradley to Discuss the Siege and Reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, 1865



As a bonus lecture following the Friday evening reception – the 150th anniversary of the fall of Fort Blakely – Robert Bradley will discuss the siege and reduction of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor auditorium of the History Museum of Mobile.

As the American Civil War began to draw to a close in April of 1865, part of the last major campaign of the war was played out in Alabama. Bradley will discuss the specifics of the campaign and how the events in Alabama in April, 1865 fit within General Grant's plan for ending the war. According to Bradley, "The campaign for Mobile and Wilson's Raid are often treated as separate events and almost as local history when they were, in fact, coordinated and part of a much bigger picture." He will also discuss the current condition of the sites.

Robert (Bob) Bradley is the Chief Curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. From 1974-1986, he was a historian with the National Park Service, specializing in the management, preservation, and interpretation of 18th -to mid-20th-century fortifications and military sites. From 1986-1988, Bradley was Historic Sites Administrator for the Alabama Historical Commission. He is the author of *Documenting the Civil War Period Flag Collection at the Alabama Department of Archives and History,* which is available on the Department's web-site, and he has contributed to a wide variety of Civil War publications. He is also very active in Civil War battlefield preservation.





Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

In 1835, Bishop Portier directed the laying of the cornerstone to begin this ambitious project. It would take 15 years to complete the structure of Roman design. Doric columns supported the barrel-vaulted ceilings of the 162 by 90 foot cathedral. The 1880s saw the addition of the portico with the adjacent towers being completed during the next decade. The new century saw the installation of the Franz Myer stained glass windows. These magnificent works of art highlight Mary's role in the life of Jesus and the Church. In 1962, Pope John XXIII designated the structure a Minor Basilica due to its historical, cultural and artistic importance. Interior renovations were required after a devastating fire in 1954. Additional restoration and enhancements which highlight French and Irish heritage of the area's Catholic community were completed in 2004. For 180 years the Cathedral has withstood the vicissitudes of time, fire, war and wind to serve the spiritual, cultural and community needs of Mobile. AHA members are invited to tour the Cathedral on Friday between 1 and 4. A special Tour Talk will begin at 3 pm.

Condé-Charlotte Museum House

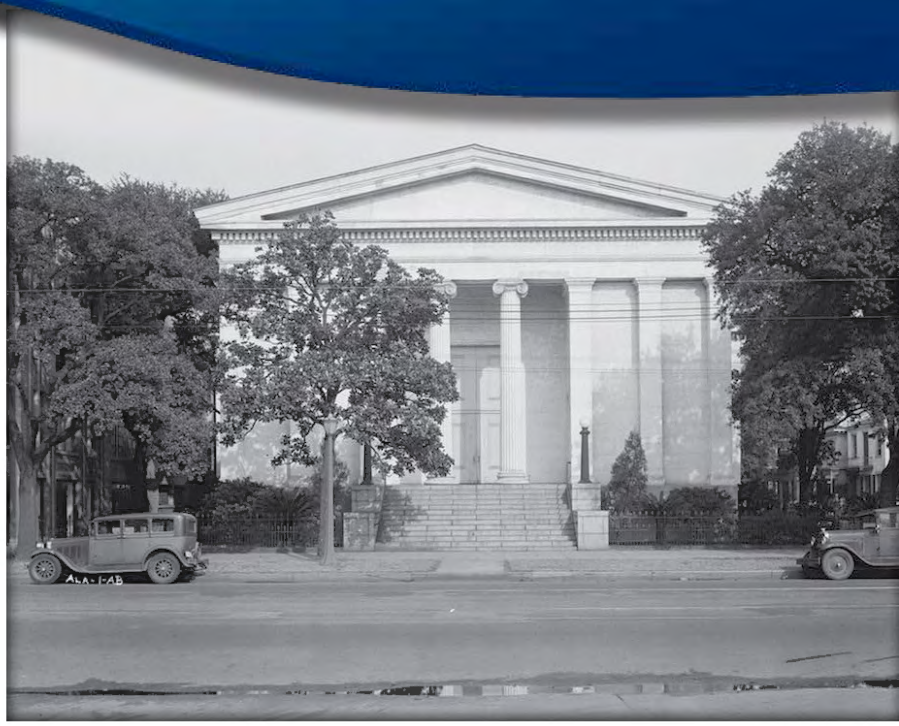
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Condé-Charlotte Museum House is a gateway to Mobile's history. Built in 1850 by the Kirkbride family on the foundation of a jail dating back to 1822, cell doors and a portion of a jail floor can be seen in the house today. The museum's mission is to preserve its historic structure and collection in order to interpret the history of the site and the influence of those who have flown their flags over the city – France, England, Spain, the Confederate States of America, and the United States.



In the house are a British Commandant's room, an American Federal dining room, two Confederate parlors, a French Sitting room and bedroom, and two American bedrooms. A walled Spanish garden of late 18th century design and a kitchen filled with late 19th and early 20th century equipment complement the house. The variety and authenticity of the furnishings make the house a charming museum.

Located in the heart of Fort Condé Village, the Condé-Charlotte Museum House is owned, preserved, and operated by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Alabama.

Government Street Presbyterian Church

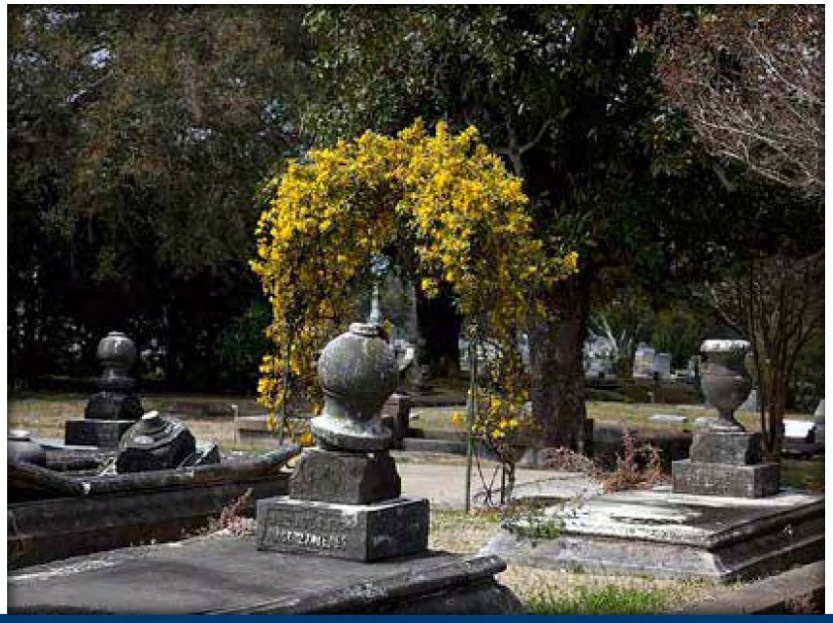


Nestled on the corner of Government and Jackson streets just five blocks west of the History Museum of Mobile, Government Street Presbyterian Church offers a vista of the Port City's architectural grandeur in the decades preceding the Civil War. In 1836 the Government Street Presbyterian congregation purchased the lot on which the church currently resides after outgrowing their previous accommodations a few blocks to the east. Architects James Gallier and the brothers James and Charles Dakin designed the church, which upon its completion in 1839 became one of the first – and finest - examples of the Greek Revival style outside of New York City. Local businessman Henry Hitchcock underwrote the initial construction of the building, complete with a steeple and Mobile's first fire bell before an 1852 hurricane removed those features. Additions were made in the early twentieth century to offset a shortage of space in the original building, yet throughout the interior and exterior of Government Street Presbyterian Church has retained its original Greek Revival character and captivates visitors to Mobile.

Magnolia Cemetery



Located minutes from the heart of downtown Mobile, Magnolia Cemetery covers over 120 acres and contains 80,000 grave sites, including two Alabama governors, seven congressmen, mayors, generals, rabbis, free blacks, society women, among other notable figures. Established in 1836, the oldest portion of the cemetery includes Confederate Rest, with 1,100 burial plots from notable Confederates including General Braxton Bragg and memorials to the crew of the submarine *H.L. Hunley*, and National Cemetery, which includes veterans' graves from the Civil War and later conflicts. The cemetery also includes a number of plots belonging to Mobile's fraternal and professional organizations, characterized by striking decorations symbolizing the work or interest of those groups. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and visitors can expect to experience beautiful funerary art and memorials while exploring Magnolia's colorful history. The cemetery is open for public tours during the conference, with a special talk on the cemetery's history scheduled for Friday, April 10th, at 2:00 pm.



CHRONICLER OF MOBILE RIVER TO SPEAK ON FRIDAY AT CHRIST CHURCH



During the opening session of the Mobile meeting, historian John S. Sledge will read selections from his forthcoming book entitled *The Mobile River*.

Sledge, senior architectural historian with the Mobile Historic Development Commission and a member of the National Book Critics Circle, is well-known to members of the Alabama Historical Association and the southern literary scene. He is the author of several notable books on south Alabama, including *Cities of Silence: A Guide to Mobile's Historic Cemeteries* (University of Alabama Press, 2002), *An Ornament to the City: Old Mobile Ironwork* (University of Georgia Press, 2006), and *The Pillared City: Greek Revival Mobile* (University of Georgia Press, 2009).

His most recent publication is *Southern Bound: A Gulf Coast Journalist on Books, Writers, and Literary Pilgrimages of the Heart* (University of South Carolina Press, 2013), a collection of essays and book reviews from his long tenure as editor of the Books page with the *Mobile Press-Register*.

Those who know Sledge realize that the river book has been a long time coming. What has emerged from this lifelong fascination with the river is a dynamic book, rapid in pace, and beautifully written. Inspired by the venerable *Rivers of America* series, Sledge mixes chronological and thematic elements with his own personal experiences to form a resonating portrait of the Mobile, from its hinterland headwaters to the breezy and deadly Gulf of Mexico.

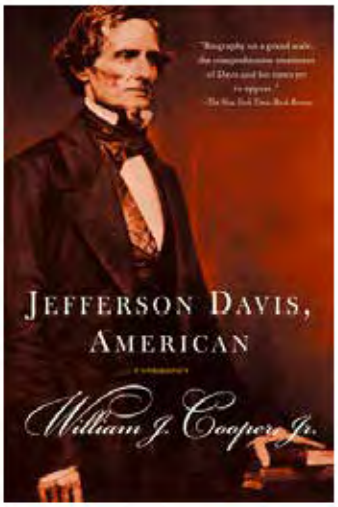
The History Museum of Mobile will be taking preorders for the book during the annual meeting.

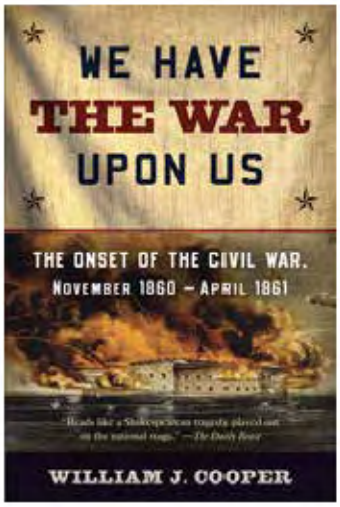


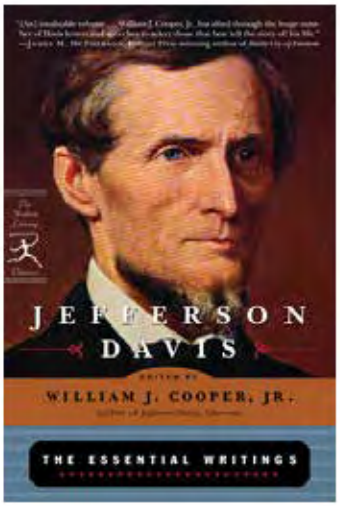
WILLIAM J. COOPER, JR. TO KEYNOTE ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Dr. William J. Cooper, Jr. will discuss "Jefferson Davis and the Meaning of the War" at the annual awards banquet on Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the historic Battle House Hotel.

William J. Cooper is a Boyd Professor at Louisiana State University and a past president of the Southern Historical Association. He was born in Kingstree, South Carolina, and received his A.B. from Princeton and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. He has been a member of the LSU faculty since 1968 and is the author of *The Conservative Regime: South Carolina, 1877–1890; The South and the Politics of Slavery, 1828–1856; Liberty and Slavery: Southern Politics to 1860; Jefferson Davis, American,* winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize*; We Have the War Upon Us: The Onset of the Civil War, November 1860-April 1861*; *Jefferson Davis and the Civil War Era;* and coauthor of *The American South: A History.* He lives in Baton Rouge.







CONECUH COUNTY

Alexander Travis
August 23, 1790—December 2, 1852

In the fall of 1817 Reverend Alexander Travis settled his affairs in South Carolina and immigrated to Conecuh County, where, in the spring of 1818, Beulah Baptist Church was constituted. In rapid succession Travis' firm resolve and his devotion to the Gospel of Christ led to the successful constituting of other churches in Conecuh County including Belleville, Burnt Corn, Brooklyn, Owassa (now Olive Branch), and Evergreen, as well as others in the surrounding counties and even in Florida.

In 1830, he was elected Moderator of the Bethlehem Baptist Association, a position he filled for twenty years. Reverend Travis' ministry extended far beyond his ability to interpret the Scriptures to multiple congregations. His zeal for missions conclusively led to his being considered the father of the Baptist denomination in the area where he preached and baptized and adjudicated disputes with courage and unconditional love. Primarily known as a spiritual leader, Reverend Travis was also an advocate for education and was the first chairman of the Board of Trustees for Evergreen Academy.

[2014: 100 Williams Ave., Evergreen]

COOSA COUNTY

Socopatoy

Although the Creek Indians retained ownership of this territory after the Treaty of Fort Jackson ended the Creek War of 1812-14, whites began settling here before Alabama achieved statehood. This site included a Native American village, frontier fort, and pioneer town. The village gave its name to the Socopatoy Creek and the "Socopatoy Trail," which connected Wetumpka and Talladega.

A post office operated between 1837 and 1866, and the cemetery was established in 1840 along the Rockford Road.

On July 16, 1864, during the Civil War, Union General Rousseau's Raiders passed here.

William Garrett (1809-1876), Secretary of State from 1840-1852, lived in the area, as did Samuel Smylie Graham (1805-1883), the Assistant State Geologist, who was known as a "walking encyclopedia" and for his long walks as far as Wetumpka.

By the early 20th century, the once thriving town was reduced to a handful of structures and most of these were removed in 1979 for the rerouting of U.S. Hwy. 280.

Nearby are the ruins of Bradford Factory, a textile mill chartered in 1845. The Central Plank Road of 1852 went by the Factory, its product hauled by wagons to Montgomery.

[2014: U.S. Hwy 280 northwest of Alexander City]

ELMORE COUNTY

Tallassee Confederate Officers Quarters

In the Spring of 1864, the Confederate States of America (CSA) moved the Confederate Armory in Richmond, VA to Tallassee, AL, necessitating new housing for the officers and staff. With the help of the Tallassee Falls Mfg. Company, four houses were built on King Street at 301, 303, 305, and 307.

The Confederate Armory closed in April 1865 at the end of the Civil War and the Tallassee Falls Mfg. Co. gained possession of the houses. The house at 303 King was demolished when the Bank of Tallassee was built. The other three remain.

After the Civil War, Brigadier-General (CSA) Birkett Davenport Fry (1822-1891) returned to Tallassee to live at 301 King Street until 1880, in his capacity as secretary for the Tallassee Mfg. Co., the successor to the Tallassee Falls Mfg. Co. From 1880 until 1966 it was the residence for the managers of the Tallassee Mills Company Stores. Samuel Hugh Scott (1867-1942) lived there from 1900-1942; Belser Ray Carr (1895-1966) followed from 1942-1966. In 2005, it became the office for The Segrest Law Firm.

– Reverse –

Brigadier General Birkett Davenport Fry, CSA (1822-1891)

In his lifetime, General Birkett D. Fry was a cadet at Virginia Military Institute and West Point; 1st Lt. (U.S. Infantry) in Mexican War; lawyer in California; mercenary-soldier of fortune in Latin America; colonel (adjutant) of the 13th Alabama (CSA) Infantry Regiment in the Civil War when he was wounded in four different battles including Gettysburg, taken prisoner of war, then promoted to Brigadier General (May 1864); engaged in the tobacco business in Cuba; executive in the Tallassee Textile Mills; public school superintendent in Montgomery, AL; and president of the Richmond, VA Cotton Mill until his death. His body was returned to Montgomery where he was buried next to his wife in Oakwood Cemetery.

Fry was born in Kanawha County, WV (24 June 1822) and died in Richmond, VA (21 January 1891). The son of Thornton Fry (1786-1823) and Eliza R. Thompson (1794-1885), he was married to Martha Augusta Micou (1823-1878), the sister of Benjamin Hall Micou (1825-1887) who was president of the Tallassee Manufacturing Company beginning in 1871.

[2014: 301 King St., Tallassee]

JACKSON COUNTY

Averyville

During the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War, a freedmen's community was established in this area called Averyville, named for the Pennsylvania minister and

successful businessman Charles Avery, a longtime and faithful champion of Negro education. Wilmer Walton, a Quaker missionary, moved to Stevenson and Averyville as early as 1865, opening a school financed by the Quaker "Friends' Association for Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen." Soon, some seventy-five students, both adults and children, were enrolled in Walton's school. Another teacher and Quaker missionary, Henrietta Starkweather, succeeded Wilmer Walton at Averyville. This noble and pioneering effort to educate freedmen was short-lived; Ku Klux Klan violence, threats, and intimidation drove the teachers away by the early 1870s, and the school closed.

– Reverse –

Averyville

Averyville School's most notable student was William Hooper Councill (1848-1909), a former slave brought to Alabama in 1857. He attended Averyville School as a freedman, becoming a teacher himself by the end of his third year here. He moved to Huntsville in 1869 and opened the Lincoln Normal School to train black teachers. In 1873, Dr. Councill founded Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, using funds appropriated by the Alabama Legislature to train black teachers. Dr. Councill rose to state and national prominence, becoming an influential leader alongside Booker T. Washington and others. His only formal education was here at the Freedman's School at Averyville. Here the seeds of learning were planted which grew into Alabama A&M University, educating thousands of students to this day.
[2014: Avery Street, Stevenson]

JACKSON COUNTY

Jones House

The Jones House was constructed in 1907 in the second subdivision recorded in the Scottsboro City Plat in 1889. The steep Pyramidal-roof, thin wooden columns, large interior chimney, and veranda that surrounds three sides exhibit overtones of the French Colonial Style. The house was purchased in 1909 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Jones, Sr. who maintained the residence until the death of Mrs. Jones in 1966. Their children were Rudolph, Cecil, and Ruth Jones, Sydie Jones Snodgrass, and Robert E. (Bob) Jones, Jr., who was born in this house on June 12, 1912. A graduate of Jackson County High School and the University of Alabama School of Law, Robert E. Jones, Jr. was admitted to the bar on January 20, 1937. After practicing law in Scottsboro, he was elected judge of Jackson County in 1940. He served in the U. S. Navy from December 1943 to February 1946, in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, and as a member of the legal staff of General Douglas MacArthur.

– Reverse –

Robert E. Jones, Jr.

In 1946, Robert E. Jones, Jr. was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives to fill Alabama's 5th Congressional District seat vacated by John J. Sparkman's election to the U.S. Senate. Elected to 15 consecutive terms, 1946-1976, Congressman Jones became Alabama's longest-serving Representative. The Robert E. Jones Bridge that spans the Tennessee River east of Scottsboro was dedicated in his honor in September 1985. Congressman Jones is remembered for his ardent support of legislation leading to the expansion of the Tennessee Valley Authority, construction of the nation's interstate highway system, development of the U.S. Space program, protection of the environment, and construction of major public works that included the Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Madison Annex to the Library of Congress. He retired to Scottsboro in 1977 where he lived until his death in 1997.
[2014: Scott Street, Scottsboro]

MADISON COUNTY

Buffalo Soldiers

After the Civil War, the future of African Americans in the United States Army was in doubt. In July 1866, Congress passed legislation establishing two cavalry and four infantry regiments to be made up of African-American soldiers. The mounted regiments (9th and 10th Cavalries) conducted campaigns against Native-American tribes on the Western Frontier, where they were nicknamed "Buffalo Soldiers" by Native Americans. Their service also included subduing Mexican revolutionaries, outlaws, and rustlers, and building frontier outposts, roads, and telegraph lines. In 1898, the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to Cuba to participate in the Spanish-American War. They fought alongside Teddy Roosevelt in the charge up San Juan Hill.

– Reverse –

Buffalo Soldiers, Huntsville, AL

After the Buffalo Soldiers finished service in the Spanish-American War, one of the four regiments returned to the U.S., serving first in New York and then in Huntsville. They were sent to Huntsville's Monte Sano to escape the scourge of yellow fever and to recuperate from wounds and other diseases they brought back from the war. After an incident between black and white soldiers, African-American and white troops were separated. The Buffalo Soldiers were moved to what is now known as 10th Cavalry Hill, named by the residents of the area. [2014]

MORGAN COUNTY

King's Memorial United Methodist Church

King's Memorial United Methodist Church, formerly St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, evolved out of the Decatur First Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1827. In 1854, Richard Rather, Charity Barnes Rather, and Robert Murphy led the church's black congregants in hiring Sawney Price to build a separate sanctuary for them at Lafayette and Bank Street. After the Civil War, Northern Methodists returned to Alabama and, in 1867 at Talladega, the congregation was received into the Alabama Conference. During this Reconstruction era, the Methodist Freedmen's Aid Society used the church building, then located on Market and Oak Street, as a school. In 1881, the congregation moved to this site, soon after which the City of Decatur leased the church building as the first city-supported facility for black education. Lightning destroyed the church building and parsonage in 1907. The congregation worshipped in railroad cars until famed architect Wallace A. Rayfield was employed to design a raised cottage-style brick sanctuary. The Rev. Willis Jefferson King, later elected Bishop, was invited to lead a revival which proved so successful that the congregation changed the church's name to honor the preacher's father in 1908. In 1978, King's Memorial and Jones Chapel Congregations united to strengthen the Methodist presence in the area. Church buildings built in 1986 and 2014 are currently located on this McCartney Street site.

– Reverse –

Trustees
1872
Howell Echols, Pastor
Robert Murphy
William Newman
Richard Rather
Samuel King
Fink Kelly

Trustees
1881
H. H. Cantrell, Pastor
Robert Murphy
James Scott
William H. Blackwell
Alex Smith
Jack Walden
Robert Chardavayne
Bynum Davis
Ishmael Allen
Major Luster

Trustees
1908-1913

Lawson H. Hunley, Pastor	Alexander Samuel Williams, Pastor
W. L. Darius, Pastor	Jonas C. Chuman, Pastor
H. L. Murphy	J. E. Martin
Tim Bynum	C. H. Troup
F. W. Williams	Ellie Patterson
J. H. Harris	John Minter
H. J. Banks	Robert Murphy
Matthew H. Banks	T.J. Garth
W. G. H. Armstrong	J.B. Toney

[2014: 702 McCartney St. NW, Decatur]

MORGAN COUNTY

Rising Sun Lodge No. 29 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

Dr. Henry W. Rhodes, for whom Rhodes Ferry Landing was named, was Decatur's first Postmaster and one of the organizers of the Lodge (Nov. 22, 1826). Chartered in 1827, its first Worshipful Master was Colonel Francis Dancy, builder of the Dancy-Polk House. It is the oldest Lodge in Morgan County and the first fraternal organization in Decatur. Early members were the pioneer settlers of Morgan County. Two of Decatur's founders, Isaac Lane and General Jesse Winston Garth, were Masons and Directors of the Decatur Land Company which laid out the city streets. A Lodge was built in 1834 with the lower floor used for school and church purposes. Rising Sun Lodge was destroyed by the enemy during the War Between the States (Nov. 25, 1864). In 1873 a Lodge was built on the NW corner of Bank and Pond Streets, across from the Old State Bank. W.W. Littlejohn and Colonel C.C. Harris were Masons and founders of the Decatur Land Improvement & Furnace Company which planned the city of New Decatur (1887). Three members, all doctors in faithful discharge of their Hippocratic Oath, were lost to the 1888 Yellow Fever epidemic. James McGinnis Brundidge, PM, is the only Mason in the history of the Alabama Grand Lodge to be bestowed the title of 'Honorable Past Grand Master' (1899). In 1934, the Lodge moved into the Masonic Temple on Johnston Street, formerly the Cotaco Opera House.

[2014: 1 Walnut Dr., Decatur]

PIKE COUNTY

Academy Street High School

On May 9, 1921, S.B. Innis, C.L. Jenkins, James Henderson, Pres Thomas, and C.B. Brooks, the "colored school committee," entered into a school mortgage for the construction of a building for "colored school purposes" on East Academy Street. The debt of $3,028.89 was "satisfied in full" on July 18,

1922, whereupon the City of Troy assumed ownership.

Beginning with two grades, one teacher, and a term of seventy-two days in a two-room dwelling, by 1927, the school had become a junior high school with six teachers and six classrooms. Administrators of this period included Mr. John Wiley, Mr. Floyd, Mr. C.L. Jenkins, Mrs. F.M. Innis, and Mr. S.T. Wilson, the first principal.

Mr. A.J. Fields became principal in 1926. His twenty-two years of leadership saw the addition of an auditorium, new programs of Diversified Occupation and Home Economics, and elevation of the school to senior high-school status.

– Reverse –

Academy Street High School

The City Board of Education changed the school's name from "Troy Junior High School on Academy Street" to Academy Street High school in 1941, the year of the school's first graduating senior class. The building was destroyed by fire in 1946, and a new brick building was erected in 1948.

Mr. C.G. Griffin was principal from 1948 to 1966. During his administration, the school was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, courses of study were expanded to include vocational agriculture and typing, and an emphasis was placed on band and choir performances. The physical plant saw the addition of an agriculture building and a modern gymnasium.

The school was last under the administration of Mr. John E. Nolen, from 1966 to 1971, during which time two of the school's three yearbooks were published. The last graduating class was in 1970 with the transition from Academy Street to Charles Henderson High School in January 1971.

[2014: Academy Street, Troy]

RUSSELL COUNTY

Early Brickyards

The rich clay deposits along the high western bluff of the Chattahoochee River led a pioneer family to begin producing brick here. In 1839, brothers Anderson and Charles Abercrombie acquired a large tract of land from the U.S. government as a result of the Treaty of 1832 with the Creek Nation. By the 1840s, their expansive cotton-producing plantation included a small brickyard, the site of which became Brickyard, Alabama. Captain James Abercrombie, whose plantation lay to the north of his brothers' land, established brickyards in Pensacola, Florida during the 1850s that produced brick for U.S. Army forts off the Gulf Coast, including Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas. An Alabama and U.S. legislator, James was also director of the Mobile & Girard railroad, which served Brickyard and enabled Abercrombie bricks to reach Columbus and markets to the south. In 1885, James Henry Bickerstaff and his brother William Jefferson Bickerstaff, Jr. bought the Abercrombie plantation and quickly expanded its brick-making operations. This partnership formed Bickerstaff Brick Company that eventually became one of the largest family-owned brick manufacturers in North America.

[2014]

RUSSELL COUNTY

Colonel John Crowell's Race Track

During the early 19th century, Colonel John Crowell, United States Indian Agent from 1821 to 1836, used this field as a track to train his race horses. His famous champion, John Bascombe, won the North-South Race at Union Course, Long Island, New York, in 1836. [2014]

RUSSELL COUNTY

Little Prince (Tustunnuggee Hopoi)

According to Alabama historian Peter Brannon, the remains of Little Prince, a Creek Indian chief, were buried near this site. Little Prince lived at Broken Arrow and was a principal chief of and speaker for the Lower Towns of the Creek Nation in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He died in 1832. [2014]

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Camp Winnataska

Dr. Elwyn Ballard, commissioner of Boy Scouts in Birmingham, and his wife, Florence Aye Ballard, discovered this site in 1914, and became vital forces in the founding and growth of the camp. Boy Scouts and Boys Club members from the area first camped here in tents in 1916. Through Dr. Ballard, the Interdenominational Birmingham Sunday School Association acquired the camp in 1918 and offered sessions not only for boys but for girls as well -- the first organization-sponsored camping for girls in Alabama and among the first in the South. Daniel Ray Price, Executive Secretary of the Association, directed the camp 1922-1957. Rosa V. Strickland, educator and church leader, served as girls camp director 1919-1954. Winnataska early received national recognition for excellence of staff, facilities, and programs. Since its founding, the camp has continuously provided outdoor experiences and educational programs for thousands of Alabama children and adults.

Sponsored by the Friends of Winnataska, Inc.

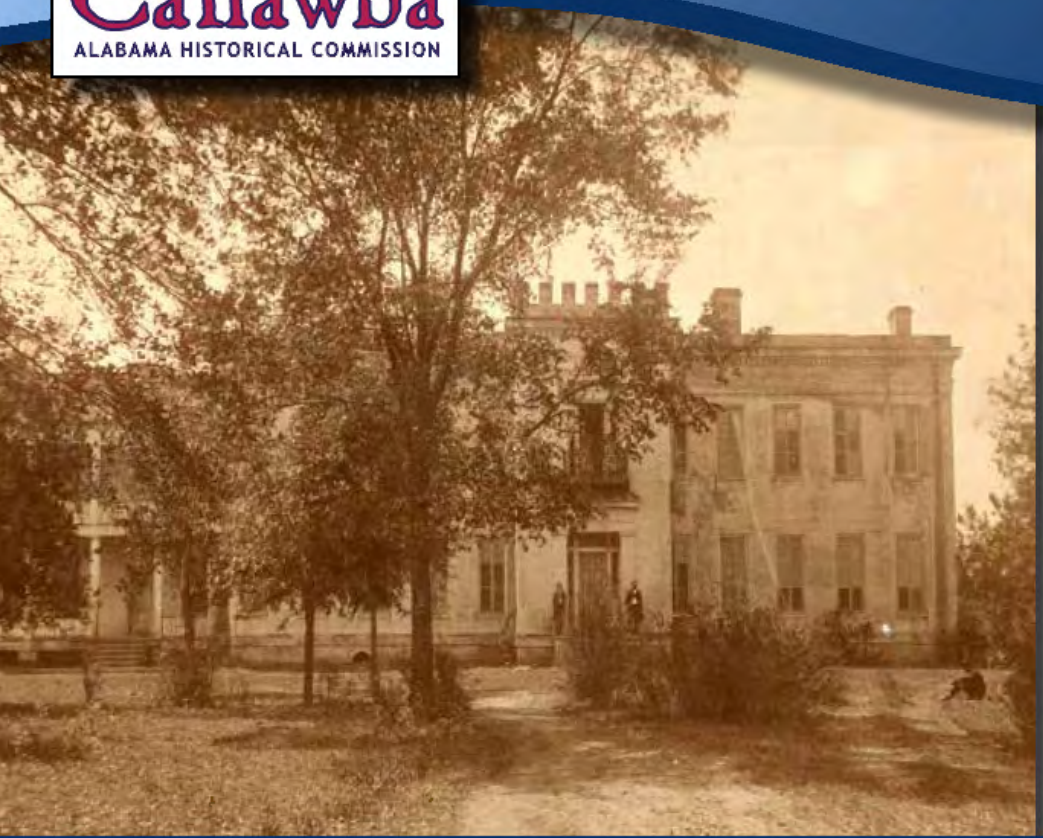
[2014: 260 Winnataska Dr., Pell City]

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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Old Cahawba
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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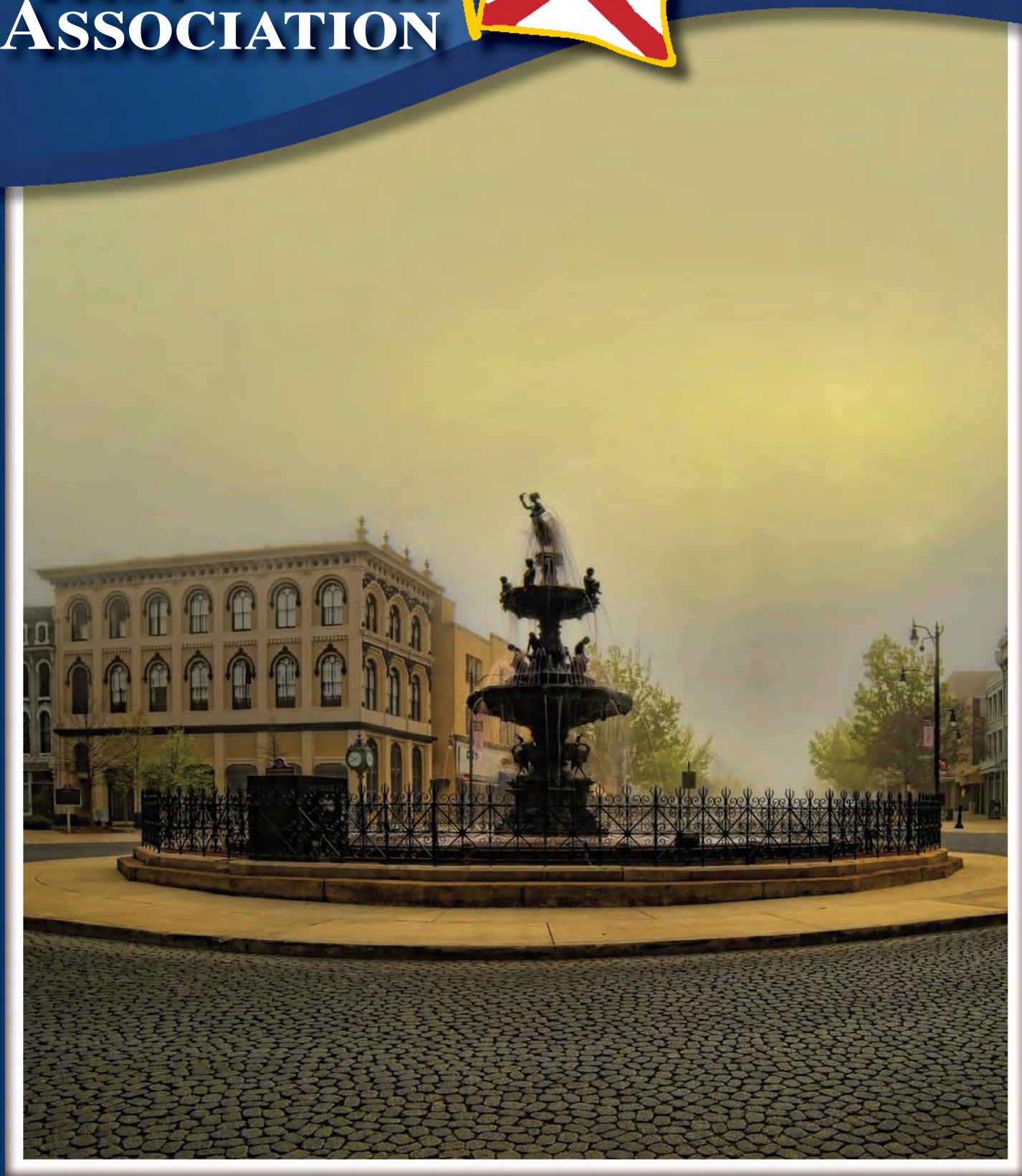


THE AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE will be held October 9, 2015 at Old Cahawba in Orrville.

Photo courtesy of Old Cahawba Archaeological Park.

Alabama Historical Association

VOLUME 31
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2016



Join us for the 69th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association
Montgomery, Alabama • April 14-16, 2016

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19-23 2015 Historical Markers

Cover image: Court Street Fountain, Montgomery. Courtesy of Mark Dauber

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The AHA Newsletter is designed and printed by Davis Direct, Montgomery, Alabama.

Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Debbie Pendleton

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the pilgrimage in Old Cahawba this past October. We had fabulous hospitality, excellent food, decent weather, and outstanding presentations and tours. Many thanks to the staff at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, the Alabama Historical Commission, Jawana Jackson and James Richie, and the many volunteers who helped make the pilgrimage such a great success.

Now it's time to move on from our first permanent capital city to our current capital city. Of course, the AHA has met in Montgomery on many occasions, most recently in 2005. With such a historic city that we have visited many times before, it was a challenge to decide what to highlight for this meeting. I served as a member of the 2005 local arrangements committee, and it was clear to me that this year we needed to focus on the changes to downtown in the last ten years. So much has happened near the riverfront to make that area attractive and lively with restaurants, bars, hotels, and baseball. People are moving to downtown to live in lofts and apartments, some newly built and others in re-purposed historic buildings. For the first time in years people are excited to visit downtown after the sun sets.

Friday afternoon tours will offer a chance to walk the streets of downtown Montgomery and experience its past and envision its future. Some of our favorite local historians will lead guided walking tours exploring Montgomery's role in the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement. Local developers have agreed to open their doors to give us a peak at lofts under development in some of Montgomery's most historic retail stores and see those already occupied by our "urban pioneers." I have been so impressed by the passion and dedication of some of these young developers and tenants, many of whom grew up in Montgomery and are back to help transform their historic city. Much of Montgomery's history and its most recent development is focused in the area around Court Square. Many thanks to AHA member Mark Dauber for allowing us to use his gorgeous photograph of Court Square Fountain for the cover of this Newsletter.

As a public historian and archivist, I am always looking for new ways to help people connect to the past and appreciate the value of historic records. Last year I heard Dolores Hydock use a diary from the collections of the University of North Alabama to create a one-woman show on the life of Sallie Independence Foster of Florence. I knew immediately that I wanted to bring this presentation to the AHA. I hope you will find this shortened version of her presentation for our banquet as entertaining, enlightening, and moving as I did.

We are grateful to Landmarks Foundation for offering free admission and tours of Old Alabama Town late Thursday afternoon, and for providing the venue for the opening reception on Thursday evening. The Ware-Farley-Hood House, an 1850s Italianate house surrounded by porches and filigree, has only recently become available for events and has quickly become a favored location for Montgomery social occasions. I think you will agree that it is the perfect location to kick off our return to Montgomery.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in April. Get your taxes filed early, get your walking shoes on, and join me in Montgomery, April 14-16.



Union Station, courtesy of Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitor Bureau

OVERVIEW OF THE 69TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Local Arrangements Committee has been hard at work for the past year in anticipation of welcoming AHA members back to Montgomery. Much has changed in downtown Montgomery since AHA met in the capital city ten years ago. Montgomery prides itself as the birthplace of the Civil War and Civil Rights movement, but as the 21st century dawned little attention was being paid to preserving or celebrating the historic character of the downtown area. All that began to change a few years ago and today downtown Montgomery is undergoing a transformation. This year's meeting will celebrate Montgomery's rich heritage and introduce attendees to the changes that have the potential to revitalize the downtown area.

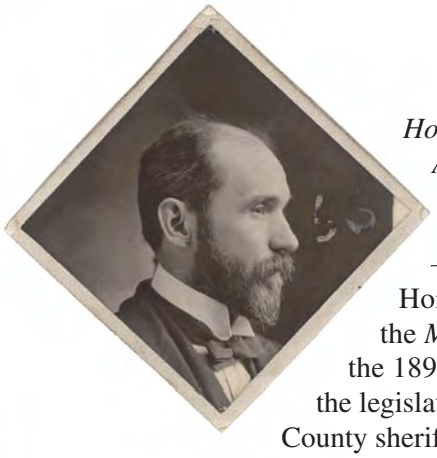
Our headquarter hotel, The Embassy Suites, is in the heart of the Riverfront district. All sessions and the Friday and Saturday lunches will take place at the headquarters hotel. All Embassy Suites rooms are two room suites and the competitive rate includes a full breakfast served in the attractive atrium. Other hotels in the immediate area include the Hampton Inn (with special rates for AHA members), the Renaissance Hotel and Spa, and the nearby Doubletree Suites.

The Lower Commerce Street area hotels are in easy walking distance to historic Union Station, Riverfront Park, and the restaurants and bars in the Alley Entertainment area. Much of the development in this area was just a dream in 2005. Riverwalk Stadium, home of the Montgomery Biscuits minor league baseball team, is just a few blocks away. The Biscuits will be in town for their season opener against the Mississippi All-Stars and baseball fans can plan to come early or stay late to catch a game in the unique stadium which incorporates portions of Montgomery's historic Western Railroad freight station. The Alley is also the home of The Dauber Gallery, where you can see more of Mark Dauber's beautiful photographs of Montgomery and Alabama.

Ten years ago the Thursday evening reception was held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. This year we hope attendees will arrive early and spend the afternoon visiting the new exhibits at ADAH or stop by on Saturday before leaving town. Early arrivals will also have an opportunity to visit Old Alabama Town on Thursday afternoon before the evening reception at the Ware-Farley-Hood House in Old Alabama Town. This elegant 1850s Italianate style home has been the home of three prominent Montgomery families, including



Ware-Farley-Hood House, courtesy of Landmarks Foundation



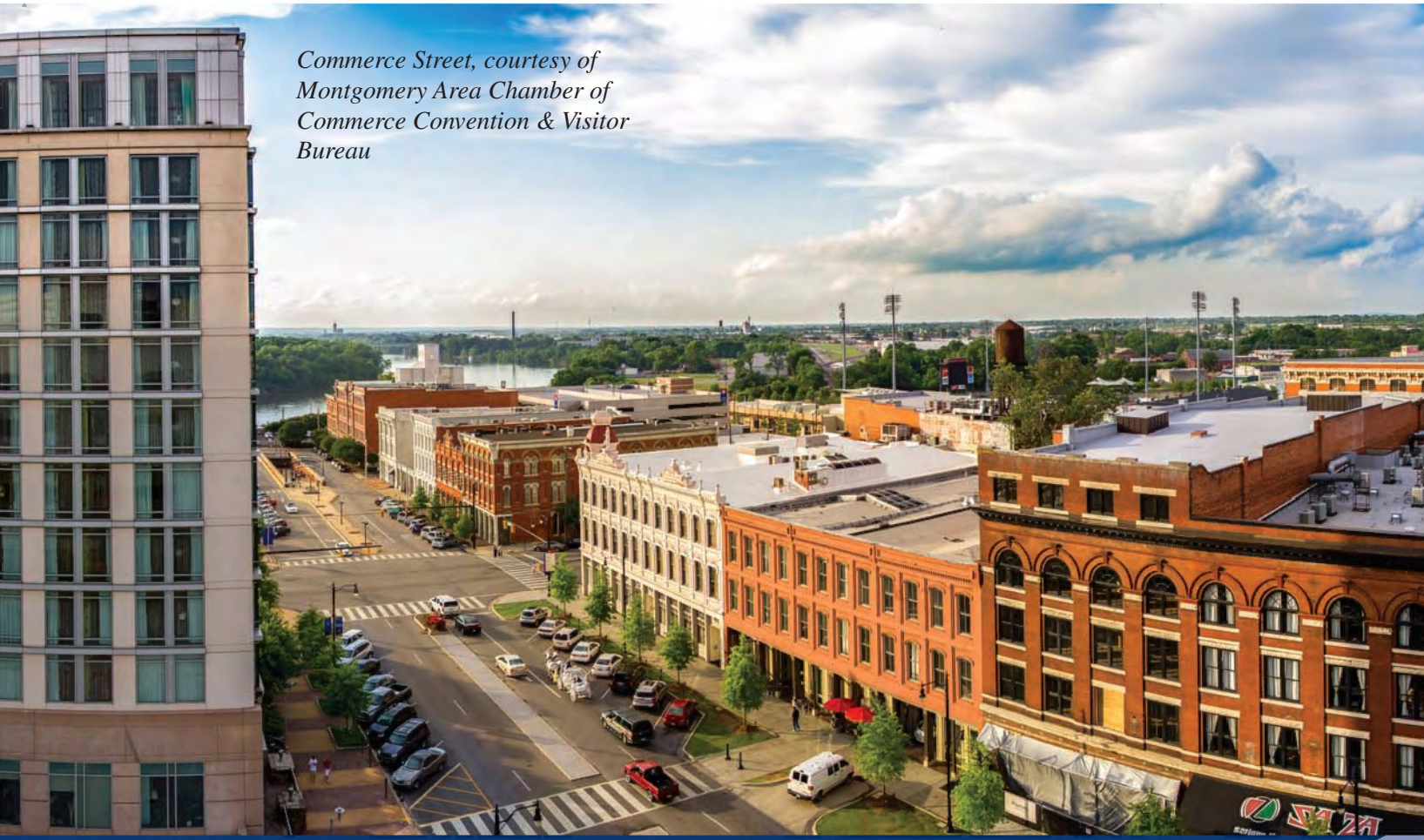
Horace Wood, Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Horace Hood, founder of the *Montgomery Journal* in the 1890s, who also served in the legislature and as Montgomery County sheriff from 1907-1915.

Put on your walking shoes and get ready to explore downtown Montgomery on Friday afternoon. Walking tours will focus on the area from the Alabama River up to Court Square and along Lower Dexter Avenue. Two concurrent themed guided tours will leave every 30 minutes from 1:00 – 3:00 or you can choose to explore on your own. Guided tours, led by area experts, will focus on Montgomery during the Civil War and Montgomery's African American history. Self-guided tours will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to peek into Montgomery's Lower Dexter Avenue, where former retail establishments such as Montgomery Fair, Belk-Hudson, and Kress are being transformed into loft living areas in the new Market District. Attendees will want to be sure to stop by NewSouth Books headquarters to visit with Randall and Suzanne in their bookstore and enjoy afternoon refreshments and to visit the Freedom Riders Museum.

The Friday night banquet will be held at the Capital City Club, a few short blocks away from the Embassy Suites. Located on the top of Montgomery's tallest building, the RSA Tower, the Skyline Ballroom is surrounded by terraces with beautiful views of the Alabama River and downtown Montgomery. Banquet speaker, Dolores Hydock will bring Alabama history alive with a unique one-woman show about Florence native, Sallie Independence Foster, and her life in North Alabama in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Of course, AHA meetings always feature wonderful papers on various topics in Alabama history and this year our program committee, chaired by Dan Puckett, has assembled a fine array of offerings. An additional bonus session on Friday afternoon at 4:00 at the Rosa Parks Museum will stimulate discussion and allow us to explore the legacy of the Confederate flag and its meaning in Alabama in 2016. As always, the AHA annual meeting is packed with opportunities to learn and explore and see Alabama in new ways.



Commerce Street, courtesy of Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitor Bureau

City of Montgomery: A Mark of Distinction

By Richard Bailey

On December 3, 1819, with the merger of John Scott's East Alabama Town and Andrew Dexter's New Philadelphia, an act of the Alabama Territorial legislature established a new municipality along the banks of the Alabama River. That the town was named for the gallant general Richard Montgomery of Revolutionary War fame was a clear indication the settlement was destined for distinction.

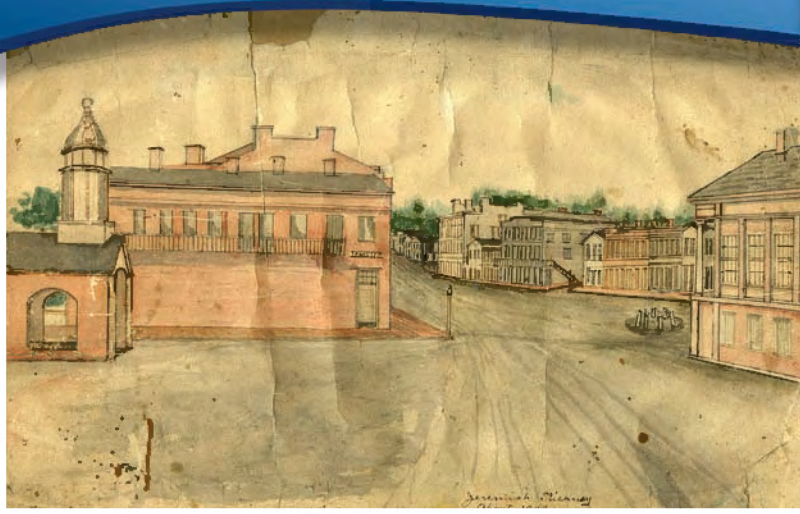


Oakwood Cemetery – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Foresight led Dexter to set aside a parcel for a future capitol, calling the area Goat Hill. His vision became a reality with the relocation of state government to Montgomery in 1846. The public-minded Scott and Dexter also donated acreage for a city cemetery. Dexter made his donation in 1817; Scott's contribution came in 1819, making Oakwood Cemetery the city's most historic resting place.

In October 1821, two years later, the city boasted of a steamboat, the *Harriot*. The *Harriot II* currently provides a site for cruises-entertainment.

Also in 1821 Clement Freeney built his tavern at Tallapoosa and Commerce Streets, with a bell to signal the time and to invite patrons for food and drink. The Renaissance Hotel and Spa currently occupies the spot.



Montgomery, 1844 – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Continuing its rapid pace towards distinction, Montgomery became the county seat in 1822.

In addition, after spending the night of April 2, 1825 at Lucas Tavern, Marquis de Lafayette met a crowd of more than 3,000 at Goat Hill the next day. On April 4, he was treated to a lavish ball at Freeney's Tavern. The city later named a school in his honor near the site of the visit.



Freeney's Tavern– Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

In the antebellum South, Montgomery was a center for slave trading. Still, the Alabama Baptist Association, through the reverend James McLemore (1782-1834), permitted Caesar Blackwell (1769-1845) to accompany Reverend McLemore and to minister to separate black and white congregations. In providing a final resting place for Blackwell in the McLemore-Taylor Burial Ground, the family plot in now-East Montgomery, the McLemore family and the association laid the foundation for one of the best-kept secrets regarding race relations in the country.



Steamboat at Montgomery – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama



Lehman on Court Square – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama



Tom Owen and the Archives – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

In 1844 German immigrant Henry Lehman came to America. In 1847 his brother Emanuel joined him in his dry-goods business at 17 Court Square. Mayer joined his brothers in 1850 to form Lehman Brothers. In 1862 Lehman-Durr was formed with the addition of merchant John Durr. The new company financed Alabama Reconstruction and later moved to New York—following the lead of Emanuel Lehman in 1858—where it helped to found the New York Cotton Exchange in 1870 and helped to fund Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in the 1930s; Shearson/American Express acquired Lehman Brothers in 1984 for $360 million.

The capitol burned on December 14, 1849, nearly two years after its opening in Montgomery and 30 years to the day of Alabama achieving statehood. It was rebuilt in 1851, and Horace King, who would represent Russell County for two terms in the legislature beginning in 1868, built its spiraling staircases. The legislature manumitted King on February 2, 1846. He was accorded the state's highest tribute with his induction into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame in 1989. King's portrait was displayed in the lobby of the capitol in February 2003.

On February 4, 1861, more than a decade after the burning, the Alabama capital began its three-month stint as the first capital of the Confederacy, relocating to Richmond on May 29, 1861. Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 52 years later. Jefferson Davis (February 18, 1861) and George Corley Wallace (January 14, 1963) were inaugurated in the same spot at the capitol, nearly 102 years apart.

Much of yesterday's traffic is absent from Union Station today, but the interest in the structure is manifested by the presence of the Montgomery Area Visitors Center. Built in 1897 by Benjamin Bosworth Smith for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Union Station opened for business one year later. A bustling presence in its heyday, providing for such notable passengers as Clark Gable and Katherine Hepburn, Union Station steadily declined in the 1950s and 1960s. As it closed in 1979, an era in local history disappeared.

With the dawn of the 20th century, Montgomery continued to enjoy its place in the sun. In 1901 the state adopted a new constitution at the capitol. In the same year and building on February 27, Thomas McAdory Owen established the nation's first state-funded archives in the Senate's cloakroom. In 1920 Owen wrote the first comprehensive history of the state. On February 15, 2014—almost 103 years to the day of its founding—the Department of Archives and History welcomed patrons to its Museum of Alabama. The National Archives in Washington, DC, is modeled after the Alabama archives in Montgomery.



1901 Constitution – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Also in 1901 John William Beverly became the first African American to have a history book adopted by the Alabama State Board of Education as a supplementary text for classroom use. A building on the campus of Alabama State University bears the name of Beverly, who headed the school from 1915 to 1920.

On March 19, 1910, Orville and Wilbur Wright also found



Capitol Fire – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama



Alabama Department of Archives and History – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama



Wright Brothers – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

the city to their liking, later building an airfield and establishing the first school for flight. On November 8, 1922, Montgomery Air Intermediate Depot was renamed Maxwell Field for Natchez, Alabama, native Second Lieutenant William C. Maxwell, who, on August 12, 1920, gave his life instead of taking the lives of children in the Philippines. Paradoxically, on August 8, 1957—nearly 37 years later to the day—harassment and a lack of employment forced Raymond Parks, a barber at the base, and his wife Rosa to relocate to Detroit, Michigan. Wright Brothers Park and Maxwell Boulevard are located near the base.

Klan violence was problematic, particularly in the South. Nevertheless, the Montgomery City Commission on Wednesday, August 1, 1923, voted 2-1 to endorse a ban on masked parades on city streets. The ordinance provided for a fine ranging from $1 to $100 for violations and prohibited anyone from wearing a mask on a city street unless the identity of the person was known. Police commissioner James V. Hardaway introduced the measure at the Tuesday, July 24, meeting, and Mayor William A. Gunter assured its passage at the August meeting by voting for its adoption.



Jefferson Davis's inauguration – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

In 1941 Gunter (1871-1940), an advocate of aviation, was honored posthumously with the naming of Gunter Field. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the original Montgomery Municipal Airport at the same site in 1929.

Court Square sets the standard for historical significance. As examples note that on February 18, 1861, a crowd of 10,000 witnessed Jefferson Davis's inaugural parade that began at the Exchange Hotel; with a band playing "Dixie" during inaugural celebrations on April 11, 1861, Confederate secretary of war Leroy Pope Walker dispatched Phil Gayle to the Winter Building with orders to fire on Fort Sumter



Maxwell Field – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

on April 12; April 12, 1865—exactly four years later—Gen Edward Moody McCook and his forces marched up Dexter Avenue to accept control of the city; January 1, 1866, the Emancipation parade traversed the area towards Wilson's Grove for the area's first celebration of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; in 1887, Montgomery converted one mile of streetcar use to electricity, creating America's first electric trolley system; October 20, 1887, President Grover Cleveland, accompanied to the city by his bride of one year, spoke from the balcony of the Exchange Hotel; May 12, 1919, the 167th Rainbow Division marched through this area, as soldiers of the Spanish-American War had done in 1898**;** January 21, 1933, president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt crossed the area en route to the capitol; December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus; and, March 25, 1965, marchers from St. Jude turned this corner as they headed to the steps of the capitol. These events help to solidify Court Square as one of the most historically significant areas in the city, if not the country.



Electric Streetcar – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

People who call Montgomery home have contributed



World War I Victory Parade – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama



First White House – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

immensely to the city, state, nation, and world. Isaac Taylor Tichenor, Edgar Gardner Murphy, Andrew Jackson Stokes, and John Wesley Alstork added much-appreciated dimensions to religiosity; journalist William S. White said of Senator Lister Hill: "He has done more for the public health than any American in history"; Victor Hugo Tulane and L. B. Whitfield carved out a role for honesty and hard work in business; Tallulah Bankhead excelled as one of Hollywood's best—ever; F. Scott Fitzgerald called his wife Zelda the first American flapper; Nat "King" Cole, Willie Mae "Big Momma" Thornton, Hiram "Hank" Williams, and Toni Tennille kept the world singing; millionaire Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the treatment of glaucoma and arthritis, was the first black inductee into the National Inventors Hall of Fame; Caesar Belser and Bart Starr brought renewed interest to athletics; Martin Luther King, Ralph D. Abernathy, Fred D. Gray, E. D. Nixon, and Rosa Parks made Montgomery the civil rights capital of America; and Morris Dees continues to provide cogent evidence that the prerogatives of the poor and minorities will not be disregarded.



Tallulah Bankhead – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Several institutions of higher learning call Montgomery home: Alabama State University was incorporated in Marion in 1867 and relocated to Montgomery in 1887; Troy University established a local branch in 1965; and Auburn University introduced its campus in 1967. Private schools have thrived in the city since 1908, when the Tuskegee Female College arrived in present-day Cloverdale. Established as Montgomery Bible School, Faulkner University has maintained a solid reputation since its founding in 1942.

Several cultural outlets are located in East Montgomery, especially the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, which was founded in 1930, making it the oldest such institution in Alabama. In addition the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, which moved to Montgomery from Anniston in December 1985, puts on 6-10 theatrical productions each year.

Montgomery is also home to the First White House of the Confederacy, Freedom Riders Museum, Rosa Parks Library and Museum, Southern Poverty Law Center, Hank Williams Museum, Dexter Parsonage Museum, and the National Center for Civil Rights and African American History and Culture.

In 2004 Sherrie Myers re-introduced the city to professional baseball. Appreciation for her work was shown in 2015, when the Alabama Chapter of the March of Dimes named her Citizen of the Year. Professional baseball came to Montgomery in 1903 with the Montgomery Rebels, but in 1981 the team moved to Birmingham as the Barons. Initially playing in the Southern Association, the team played under several affiliations and monikers. Games were played at Paterson Field.

The Montgomery Grey Sox had won a championship at least four years before the Negro Southern League was established in 1920. The team played its early games at Southside Park. A special section was set aside for white patrons.

Since 2014 the Camellia Bowl game has been played in December at Cramton Bowl. Before the Camellia Bowl, the man who put the University of Alabama in the Rose Bowl and pushed Johnny Mack Brown out of football and into the movies also brought the Blue and Gray game to Montgomery. Played on Christmas Day, William "Champ" Pickens' contest featured college seniors from 1939 to 2002.



Blue-Gray Game – Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama

Chris' Hot Dogs on Dexter Avenue, which is celebrating 99 years of business, is one of many local eateries. The Alley Entertainment District in downtown Montgomery satisfies the need for food, weddings, banquets, receptions, and corporate events.

Montgomery has been home to a Hyundai Manufacturing plant since 2005 and has loaned its name to two US Navy ships.

USA Today took note of Montgomery's giant strides, calling the metropolis the Best Historic City, and in 2014 the National Civic League labeled it an All-American City.

Indeed, the likes of Andrew Dexter anticipated a mark of distinction centuries ago.



Dr. Richard Bailey

Dr. Richard Bailey, Sr., is chairman of the Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission

69th ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION IN MONTGOMERY / APRIL 14-16, 2016

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Tours of the Museum of Alabama Alabama Department of Archives and History**

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Alabama Bicentennial Workshop
Farley Auditorium, Alabama Department of Archives and History

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Student Workshop: What Can You Do with a History Degree?
Milo Howard Auditorium, Alabama Department of Archives and History

5:00 p.m. Walking Tour of Old Alabama Town
Meet at the Ware-Farley-Hood House, Old Alabama Town

6:00 p.m. Reception
Ware-Farley-Hood House, Old Alabama Town

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales**
Embassy Suites

9:00 a.m. **General Session**
Embassy Suites

10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

SESSION A

"The Stormy Village: Auburn University, 1865-2006,"
Dwayne Cox, Auburn University

"For More Info: Leveraging Impulsive Information Seeking with Smartphones and the Web,"
Martin T. Olliff, Troy University Dothan

"Depicting the Depression: Let Us Now Recover Alabama Literature,"
Walter Bertram Hitchcock, Jr., Auburn, AL

SESSION B

"Fighting for Marengo Democracy: The Political Life of Charles H. Miller, 1884-1917,"
Caroline Jones, Auburn University

"Edmund Pettus: For Whom the Bridge was Named,"
Alston Fitts III, Selma, AL

"Robert Sylvester Munger: Birmingham Inventor, Educator, Philanthropist,"
Carolyn Green Satterfield, Birmingham, AL

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 *Continued*

SESSION C

"General Jackson, Savannah Jack, and the First Seminole War in Alabama Territory"
John T. Ellisor, Columbus State University

" 'We Alabama Farmers': Responses to Post-World War II Federal Peanut Policies," *Hayden McDaniel, The University of Southern Mississippi*

"The Shadow Remains: Wallaceism in the 21st Century Political and Cultural Conservatism,"
Jeffrey J. Frederick, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Noon **Lunch**
Embassy Suites

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Friday Afternoon Tours
Two concurrent themed guided tours will leave every 30 minutes from Court Square from 1:00 – 3:00 or you can choose to explore on your own using the map provided at the meeting.

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Confederate Flag Panel Discussion
Rosa Parks Museum and Library

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar
Capital City Club

7:00 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet
Capital City Club

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Book Sales
Embassy Suites

9:00 a.m. General Session
Embassy Suites

10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

SESSION I

"The Rise and Fall of Alabama's Black Belt,"
Valerie Pope Burnes, University of West Alabama

"The Big World at Last Reaches Gee's Bend,"
Mary Stanton, New York, NY

"The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Denomination in Alabama," *Dot Moore, Montgomery, AL*

SESSION II

"Alabama in 1865: From War to Peace in a Slave Society,"
Christopher L. McIlwain, Sr., Tuscaloosa, AL

"Free People of Color in Madison County, Alabama: Slaves without Masters," *Nancy M. Rohr, Huntsville, AL*

"Prelude to the Civil Rights Battles of the 1950s and 60s: Paternalism and Daily Life in the Smyth Ore Mining Camp on Red Mountain, 1880-1920,"
Jack R. Bergstresser, Sr., Birmingham, AL

SESSION III

"Militarizing Mobile: Identity and Perception in a Southern City between 1861 & 1865,"
Peter R. Thomas, Jr., Auburn University

"An Education on Race: School Attendance Trials and Defining Race in Jim Crow Alabama,"
L. Kathryn Tucker, Troy University

"Hellish Historiography Meets Wandering Welshman,"
Robert D. England, Tuscumbia, AL

11:45 a.m. Annual Luncheon
Presidential Address by
Debbie Pendleton
Embassy Suites

MEETING SITES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

A **Embassy Suites**
300 Tallapoosa Street
334-269-5055
Reserve your room by March 24th by calling the hotel or online at *www.embassysuitesmontgomery.com*.
Use the rate code AHA for the group rate.

B **Hampton Inn & Suites**
100 Commerce Street
334-265-1010
Reserve your room by March 30th by calling the hotel or online at *www.hilton.com* or *www.montgomerydowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com*.
Use the rate code AHA for the group rate.

1 **Alabama Department of Archives & History**
Pre-meeting workshops
624 Washington Avenue
334-242-4364

2 **Ware-Farley Hood House**
Reception
450 N. Hull Street

3 **Capital City Club**
Banquet
RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street
334-834-8920

4 **Court Square Fountain**
Commerce Street & Dexter Avenue

5 **NewSouth Books**
105 S. Court Street
334-834-3557

6 **Freedom Rides Museum**
210 South Court Street
334-230-2676

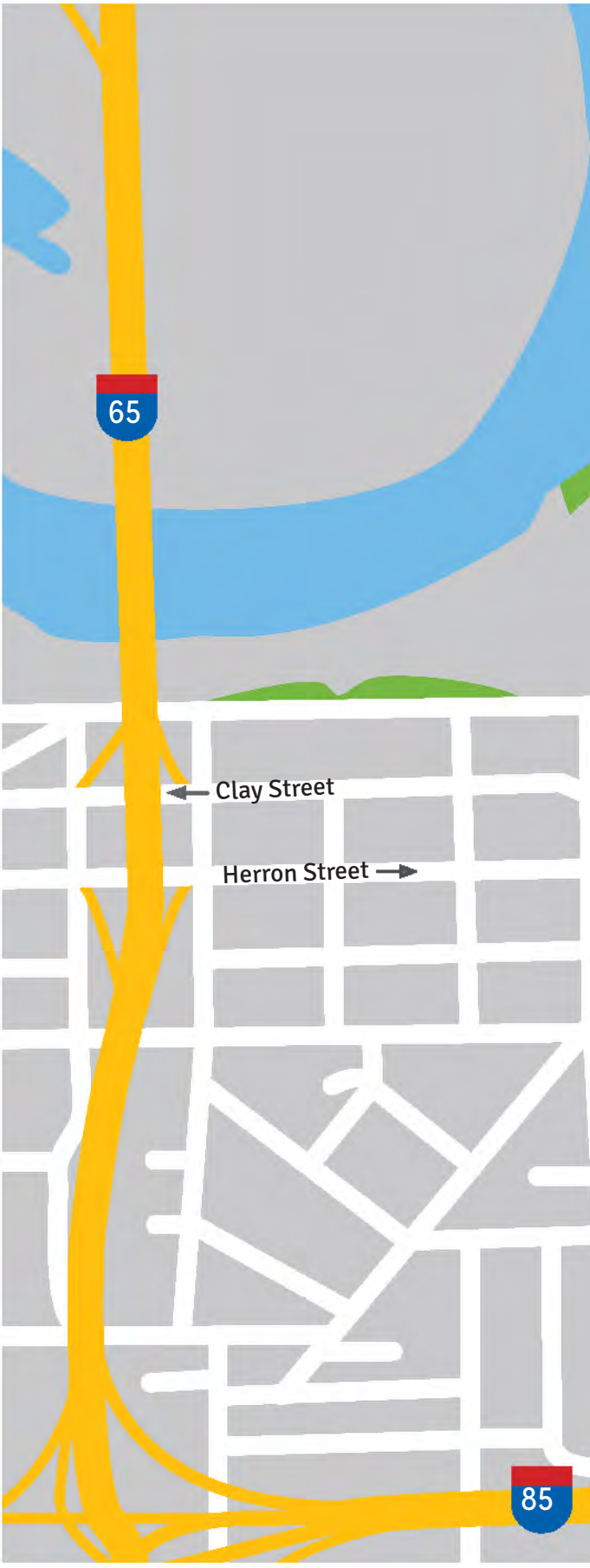
7 **Rosa Parks Museum**
252 Montgomery Street
334-241-8615

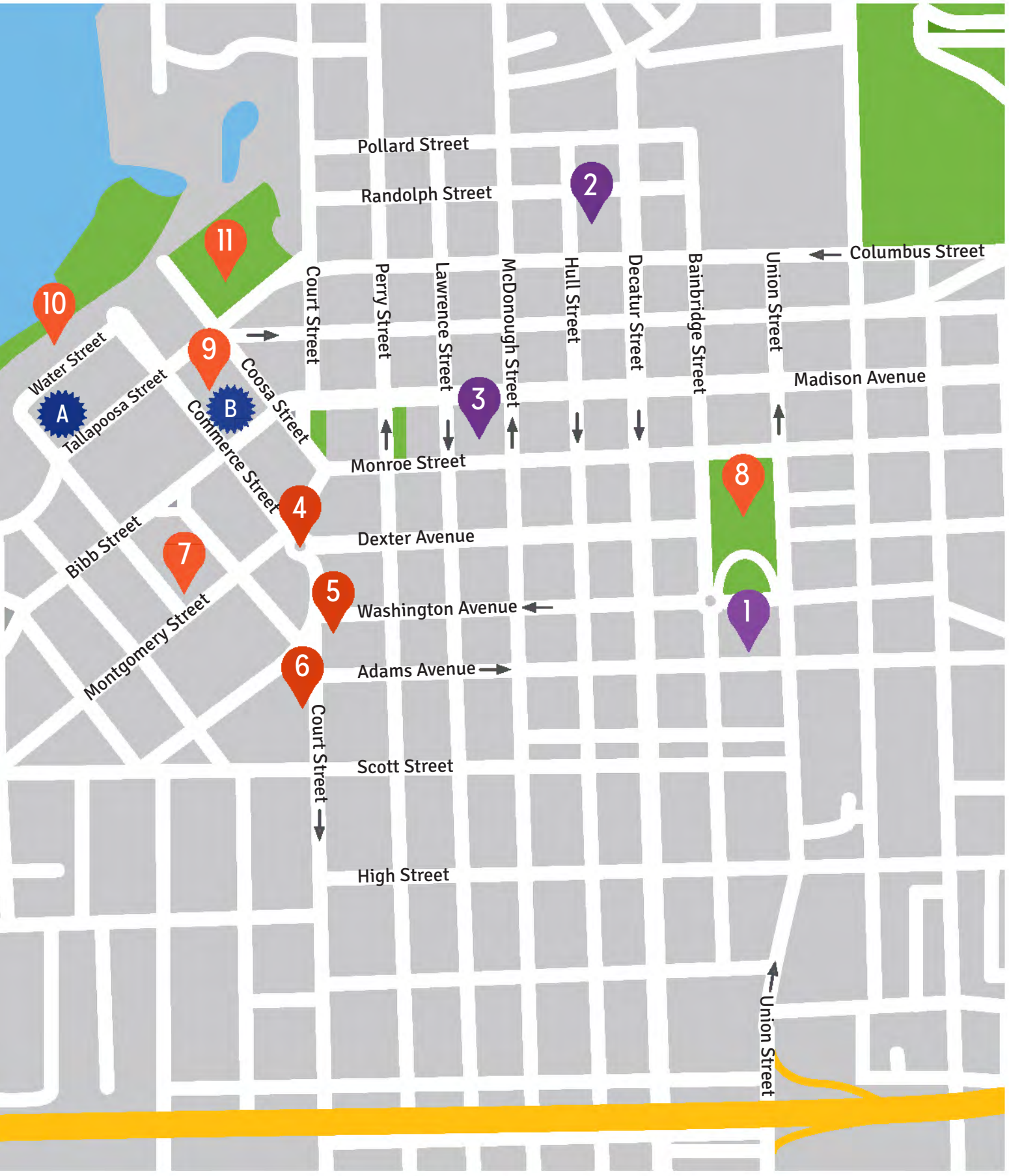
8 **State Capitol**
600 Dexter Avenue
334-242-3188

9 **Alley Entertainment District**
Commerce Street

10 **Union Station**
300 Water Street
334-261-1100

11 **Riverwalk Stadium**
200 Coosa Street
334-323-2255




Pollard Street
Randolph Street
Columbus Street
Court Street
Perry Street
Lawrence Street
McDonough Street
Hull Street
Decatur Street
Bainbridge Street
Union Street
Madison Avenue
Water Street
Tallapoosa Street
Coosa Street
Commerce Street
Monroe Street
Dexter Avenue
Bibb Street
Montgomery Street
Washington Avenue
Adams Avenue
Court Street
Scott Street
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MAKING HISTORY PUBLIC
PRE-MEETING OPPORTUNITIES ON THURSDAY

On Thursday, April 14, the AHA will offer several pre-meeting opportunities at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130. There is no separate charge to attend these events.

- **1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Tours of the Museum of Alabama**
 ADAH staff will be available to help AHA members experience the Museum of Alabama. All exhibits will be available for touring, including the award-winning *Alabama Voices* exhibit and two temporary WWI exhibits -- *Alabama and the Great War* and the *Art of the Great War* poster exhibit.
- **2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Alabama Bicentennial Workshop**
 Alabama Bicentennial Commission staff members will conduct a workshop for AHA members on how they can become involved. Come and find out about local initiatives being planned in communities across the state, about exciting opportunities to make genealogical information available online, and how our schools will celebrate Alabama history and heritage during the Alabama Bicentennial commemorations.
- **2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – What Can You Do with a History Degree?**
 Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to network with representatives from the archives, museums, and preservation communities, as well as professors in public history programs around the state, and discover answers to this important question. This workshop will also include a behind-the-scenes tour of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Free limited off-street parking is available in the Archives parking lot across from the rear (south) entrance of the building off Adams Street. Please note the south entrance bears the inscription ALABAMA WORLD WAR MEMORIAL above the doors.

Making History Public opportunities on Thursday are co-sponsored by the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities at Auburn University.

Images courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama





Mary Ann Neeley

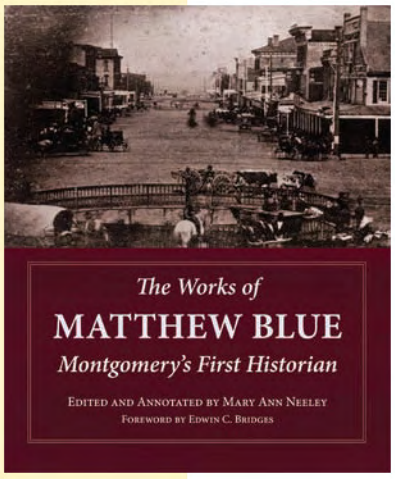
MARY ANN NEELEY. MONTGOMERY HISTORIAN

By Graham Neeley

When one thinks of Montgomery history, one thinks of Mary Ann Neeley. The seventh-generation Alabamian has played an integral role in preserving Montgomery's history through her tireless efforts in preserving Montgomery's historic structures, her numerous writings detailing the capital city's history, and her ability to captivate an audience through her vivid storytelling. Her enthusiasm and passion for Montgomery's rich history is contagious, her talks captivating, her knowledge abundant, and her influence widespread.

Mary Ann has been involved in the Montgomery historic preservation scene since its beginning in the late 1960s. While teaching middle school English and History, Mary Ann was appointed to the Montgomery Historic Development Commission in 1975, where she performed one of the first architectural surveys of the downtown area. In 1979 she shifted her preservation efforts to a full-time position when she was appointed Executive Director of the Landmarks Foundation (Old Alabama Town). During her twenty-five year tenure, Landmarks flourished in restoring and acquiring additional properties, educating Alabama's schoolchildren, and playing an important role of advocating for preservation throughout Montgomery.

The term "retirement" is foreign to Mary Ann. She conducts walking tours at Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery's historic neighborhoods, and the downtown area. She has mastered the ability to answer the basic question of *why is this important* with simple, yet humorous, and thought provoking answers. When not on her feet, she is answering reference questions, writing grants for *Cultural Crossroads*, speaking to locals and tourists on Montgomery history, and participating in various historical societies and community boards. She has authored several articles and books, including *Montgomery in the 20th Century: Tradition and Change, 1880-2010* (2012), *Old Alabama Town: An Illustrated Guide* (2002), and *Montgomery: Capital City Corners* (1997). One of her most recent works, *The Works of Matthew Blue, Montgomery's First Historian* (NewSouth, 2010) received AHA's Clinton Jackson Coley Book Award in 2012. Throughout her career, Mary Ann has received numerous awards and honors including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Preservation Alliance, induction into the Alabama Tourism Hall of Fame in 2014, and an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Huntingdon College.



Mary Ann holds degrees from Huntingdon College and Auburn University, and is a past president of AHA (1989-1990). She will deliver the local history feature on Friday morning of the annual meeting.

Graham Neeley is a curator at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and the grandson of Mary Ann Nelley. Images courtesy of NewSouth Books.

BANQUET SPEAKER TO INTERPRET THE LIFE OF SALLIE INDEPENDENCE FOSTER



Sallie Independence Foster, 1867 (center), University of North Alabama Archives and Special Collections, Florence, Alabama

Friday's banquet speaker and story performer Dolores Hydock will introduce us to a young woman from Florence, Alabama, in the nineteenth century. In "A Sweet Strangeness Thrills My Heart," Hydock tells the story of Sallie Independence Foster, who began keeping a diary in 1861 when she was twelve years old. Her performance reveals the life of a young girl who confronts the realities of war as her brothers and family friends leave to fight in the Civil War. Sallie's diary continues for another 22 years and Hydock's performance allows us to journey with Sallie through adulthood, marriage, and child rearing in north Alabama through the late 1880s. Hydock's program has been described as "richly entertaining," and "funny and moving in unexpected ways." Her presentation at the AHA banquet will provide a unique interpretation of archival materials from the University of North Alabama Special Collections.



Dolores Hydock, courtesy of Dana Smithberg

A native of Reading, Pennsylvania, Hydock has lived in Alabama since the 1970s when she came to interview people of Chandler Mountain for a folklore project. She is well known for her one-woman shows, storytelling, acting, and as an Alabama Humanities Foundation Road Scholar.

Memories of the 1956 Annual Meeting in Montgomery

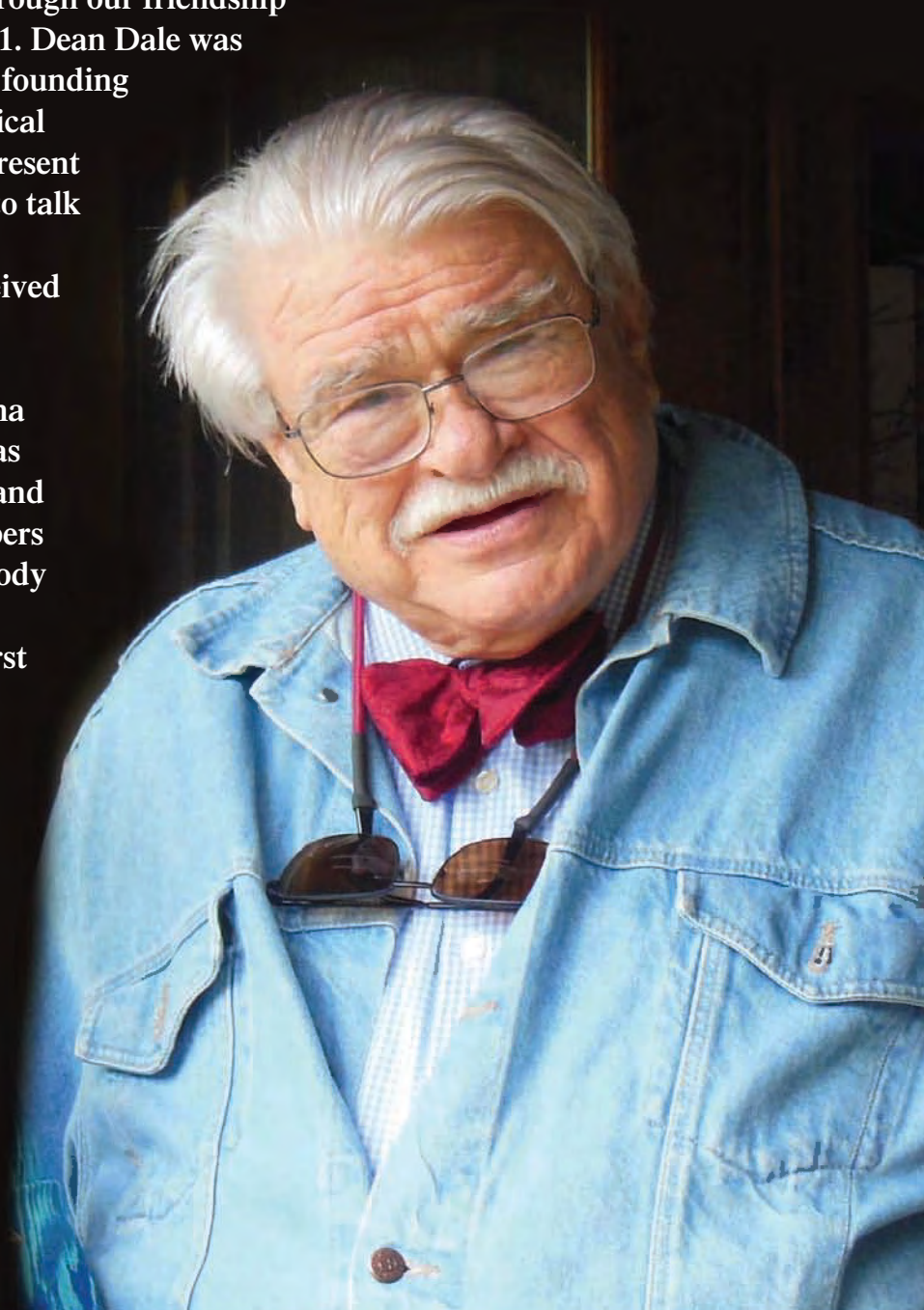
By Chriss H. Doss

During my underaduate studies at Howard College, now Samford University, I served as a student assistant for Dr. William Pratt Dale, a historian who associated with sophisticated leaders in higher education and enabled me to meet them through our friendship that lasted until his death in 1971. Dean Dale was close friends with James Sulzby, founding president of the Alabama Historical Association, and I was usually present when Sulzby came to visit Dale to talk history, politics and gossip.

One day in early 1956, I received a letter from Sulzby informing me that he was inviting me to become a member of the Alabama Historical Association, which was an organization of professional and lay historians. It acquired members by invitation only; not just anybody could join according to Sulzby.

As a result, I attended my first meeting of the AHA in April of 1956 in Montgomery during the time of the Bus Boycott. As we drove into the Capital City on old Highway 31, we met two or three city buses. The only persons on any of the buses were the white drivers and one or two black passengers seated about middle ways of the bus.

Continued on page 18



At the opening session I soon noticed that the only ladies present were the spouses of the historians attending the meeting. Sulzby acknowledged the presence of former U.S. Senator Dixie Bibbs Graves of Alabama whom he had to stand. She was stately dressed in a dark blue suit, hat and gloves. I remember her saying a few words about history and speaking positively about AHA. Her introduction caused me to think a woman senator from Alabama, how could that be? I soon learned that Mrs. Graves was appointed to fill the remainder of Senator Hugo Black's term after he was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. I also learned it was understood at the time of her appointment that she would not run for a full term.

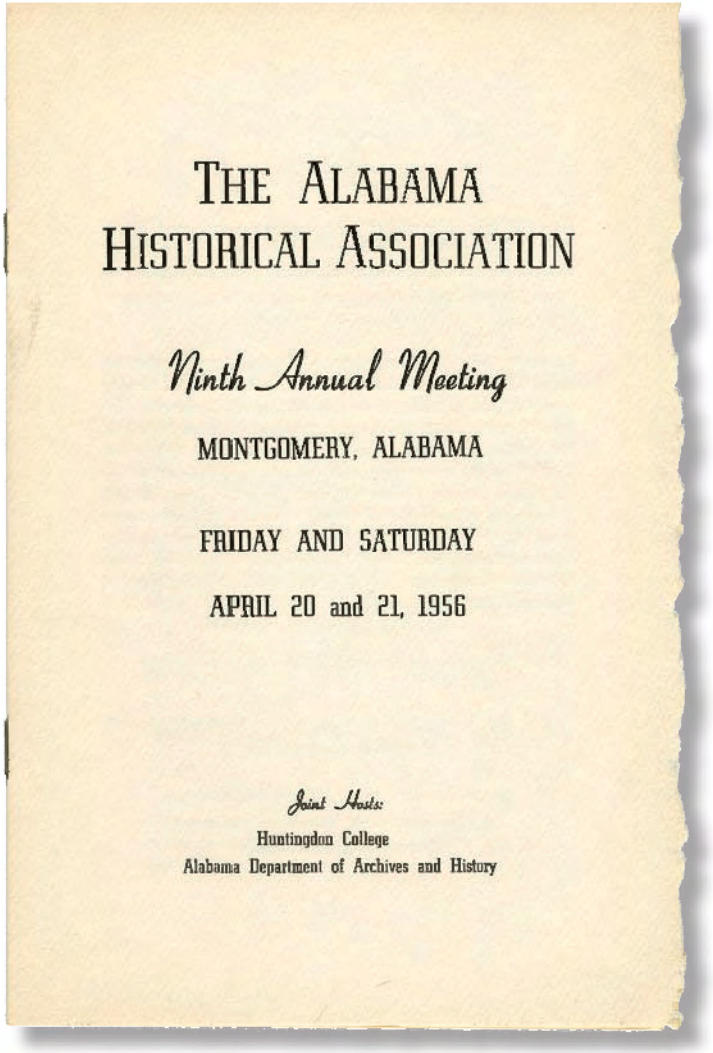
Later that day, Dean Dale and I enjoyed a visit to the Governor's Mansion. Governor Folsom's eldest daughter, Rachel, gave us a full tour of the first floor, including the library where Folsom, we later learned, had entertained Congressman Adam Clayton Powell. When I mentioned the Bus Boycott, she laughed and said, "Well, Governor Folsom's position is well known and the matter is in the courts. They will work it out." Andrew Jackson was one of Folsom's favorite historical figures. He named his daughter, Rachel Jackson after Mrs. Andrew Jackson. His second son was named Andrew Jackson Folsom.

Back at the hotel, we met with a group of men that included Drs. Draughon, Owsley, Summersell, Macmillan and Bailey. They wanted to know how we got invited to the governor's mansion and Dean Dale told them it was one of my projects. (Rachel and I knew each other from Cullman. She was one of my supporters in my successful, but tough campaign for president of the student body of Cullman High School.)

The one item of interest at the meeting was the announcement of the retirement of Marie Bankhead Owen as Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History and Peter Brannon as her successor.

Some of the men wanted to know what we learned about the Bus Boycott and Dale responded nothing that we did not already know. While some of the men thought that the boycott would blow over, most felt that the movement was "on a roll" and it would not subside until a lot of changes occurred.

Later that afternoon, Dean Dale and I went to the office of the State Chamber of Commerce. During a conversation about the Bus Boycott we learned that the Chamber folks were concerned about the economic impact, but they seemed to be guarded about what they said and how they said it.


THE ALABAMA
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Ninth Annual Meeting

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

APRIL 20 and 21, 1956

Joint Hosts:
Huntingdon College
Alabama Department of Archives and History

The format of the meeting was very simple, but generally the same as today. There were groups that sat around discussing primarily historic matters, current events, and new productions in the history sphere. To me this was a singularly inspirational and learning experience that remains indelible to this day. At that meeting, I was the youngest member present and possibly I am still young in attitude, but oldest chronologically in attendance at this 2016 annual meeting. Never do I come to an annual meeting of AHA that I do not reminisce about attending the annual meeting in 1956 and the many wonderful and interesting leaders and members I have met along the way.

Chriss H. Doss is an attorney in Birmingham and longtime member of the Alabama Historical Association.

CHAMBERS COUNTY

New Hope Rosenwald School

The Rosenwald School program was a collaboration between educator Booker T. Washington and Sears CEO Julius Rosenwald to improve educational opportunities for African American children in the rural South during the early 1900's. The Rosenwald program resulted in the construction of 4,977 schools scattered across 15 southern states. This New Hope Rosenwald School was constructed in 1919 at a cost of $1200, one-third of which was funded by the African American community. The one-teacher type school remained open until 1958. One of twenty Rosenwald Schools built in Chambers County, Ala., the New Hope School was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 and received National Treasure Status in 2011.

Sponsored by the Town of Fredonia
[2015: Fredonia]

CULLMAN COUNTY

Holly Pond Cemetery Established 1894

Listed in Alabama Historic Cemetery Register 2014
Marked by an antique arch, the Holly Pond Cemetery encompasses 10 acres and a chapel built in 1975. The site was chosen to replace the burial ground in the center of town and make room for the town to grow. The first acre was deeded to the deacons of the Baptist Church and the stewards of the Methodist Church. The first burial was a child, W.R. Hendrix, on 15 August 1894. Interred here are many of the early settlers who came here after the Civil War, including veterans of that conflict. The cemetery has been maintained by the Holly Pond Homemakers Club since 1949. As Holly Pond has grown, so has the cemetery providing the final resting place for over 2000 people.

Sponsored by the Holly Pond Historical Society
[2015: County Road 1669, Holly Pond]

CULLMAN COUNTY

First Baptist Church Holly Pond

First Baptist Church of Holly Pond was organized in 1885 as Holly Pond Missionary Baptist Church. Charter members included the families of P. R. Tennison, William Jefferson Hazelwood, Bill House, Seaborn Shaw, and Isaac Barnett. Over the course of the church's life, the congregation worshipped in three different locations and five different sanctuaries. The first, destroyed by fire in 1895, was a wood-framed structure located in the triangle formed by HWY 278 and Blountsville Road. The second, destroyed by a wind storm in 1914, was a wood-framed building located 1/10 mile west of the first site. The third sanctuary was white, wood-framed, and located at the triangle formed by HWY 278 and New Hope Road, as was the fourth, a brick, Georgia Colonial structure built in 1939. The last was built on this site in 1978, the same year the church's name was changed to First Baptist. Many preachers and missionaries have been sent from here to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Dedicated October 2015 on the occasion of the church's 130th anniversary.

Sponsored by the Holly Pond Historical Society
[2015: Highway 278, Holly Pond]

DALLAS COUNTY

George Washington Carver Homes Projects, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street

In 1952, the City of Selma accepted federal funds to build the George Washington Carver Homes Projects. The residences became "The Face of the Civil Rights Movement" to many in the 1960s because Dr. King, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and other organizers would dine and live with those families while fighting to secure the right to vote for African Americans. Many families who lived here were active participants in the Civil Rights Movement.

[2015: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, Selma]

GENEVA COUNTY

Countyline Missionary Baptist Church Slocomb, Alabama

The Countyline Missionary Baptist Church and adjoining cemetery were established in November 1882, on land donated by Shade Adams. Originally donated by way of a gentlemen's agreement with the founding members, the land was deeded to the 'Countyline Baptist Church of Colored People' in 1892. The first parishioners, including Adline Adams (wife of Shade), Jane and Alexander Johnson, and Robert and Harriett Wadsworth, had moved to the area from Brundidge, naming their new church after the mother church they left behind. In the cemetery are the graves of the donor and the founding members, as well as those of scores of community members. The earliest marked grave, that of Novie Miller Copeland, is dated November 13, 1893.

[2015: 598 Countyline Drive, Slocomb]

HALE COUNTY

Candy's Landing

A significant port on the Warrior River, Candy's Landing was established by Jason Candy. Candy was the first merchant in the area, and was instrumental in founding the village of old Troy in 1817, on the eastern edge of what became Greensboro. The landing served as a shipping and receiving point for goods to and from Mobile by steamboat. Steamboats plied the river as far as Tuscaloosa beginning as early as 1821, and remained the primary mode of transportation for the next half century.

[2015: Southwest of Greensboro on the Warrior River]

LEE COUNTY

Desegregation at Auburn

The first African American student entered the library to register at Auburn University at this site. Acting on a court order, Auburn president Ralph Brown Draughon accepted the application of Harold Franklin as the first African American student in 1963. Hoping to avoid conflicts as had occurred during the desegregation of other universities across the South, Draughon scheduled the registration for Saturday, Jan. 4, 1964, and closed the campus to the public. University officials and FBI agents met Franklin at the nearby Auburn Methodist Church to escort him to campus. State troopers sent by Governor George Wallace blocked their access, forcing Franklin to proceed alone and unprotected. Some protesters assembled nearby, but no violence occurred and registration was concluded peacefully. A century of institutional segregation effectively ended that day, clearing the path for other African American students to enroll and attend Auburn University. Erected to commemorate 50 years of desegregation at Auburn University.

[2015: Draughon Library, Auburn]

LOWNDES COUNTY

The Crosby Water System – "The Well"

On land donated by Ed Crosby, a group of African American community leaders had a well dug in January 1955 to provide the people of Gordonville with running water. The Well, the first black-owned water system in Alabama, initially had just four spigots. Incorporated as the Crosby Water System in 1963, the company's initial board members included Rev. J.C. Lawson, Lee Jackson, Sr., R.C. Maye, Coley Whiting, Russell Stallworth, Sidney Logan, Sr., J.T. Haynes, Albert Ross, Nap Nelson, and Cornelius Williamson. The system was expanded in the same year to pump water from its 3,000-gallon tank to the homes of the original thirty-nine stock holders. As the community grew, its need for water exceeded the capacity of The Well and the water rights were sold in 1994.

Listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, June 2012
[2015: Wall Street, Gordonville]

LOWNDES COUNTY

Varner's Cash Store

On August 20, 1965, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a 26-year-old Episcopal seminarian from Keene, New Hampshire, was shot dead at point blank range here. He was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and was attending Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Daniels came to Selma in March, 1965, and led a movement to integrate the Episcopal Church there. On August 14, he went to support a demonstration in Fort Deposit. The group was arrested, brought to the Hayneville jail, and held for six days. Released on August 20, Daniels and the others walked from the jail to Varner's Cash Store to buy soft drinks. As they approached, Tom Coleman emerged with a shotgun, raised it, and fired. Daniels pushed Ruby Sales, a seventeen-year-old Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee worker, out of the way before being killed by the blast. As the others fled, Coleman fired again, wounding Father Richard Morrisroe, a Catholic priest. Coleman was tried for manslaughter and acquitted by an all-white jury. Hours after the verdict, Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. dismissed all charges from the Fort Deposit demonstration. Daniels is honored on August 14th on the calendar of the Episcopal Church.

[2015: Hayneville]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Side one

Birth of Montgomery Bus Boycott

Boycott Planned & Publicized Here at ASU's Councill Hall
On Dec. 1, 1955, at Alabama State College (now Alabama State University) in a basement room in Councill Hall, the Montgomery Bus Boycott was planned and publicized after the arrest that day of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat to a white person on a segregated city bus. Following Parks' arrest, Alabama State College took action. Jo Ann Robinson, a faculty member, authored the text of a flyer calling for blacks to boycott segregated city buses and, joined by others, responded to Parks' arrest by mimeographing thousands of flyers here calling for a one-day boycott of the buses to start the following Monday, Dec. 5. Assisted by members of the Women's Political Council (WPC), they distributed them throughout the city's black community in hopes of ending segregation on city buses.

Sponsored by the Kenneth Mullinax Foundation

Side two

Birth of Montgomery Bus Boycott

Boycott Planned & Publicized Here at ASU's Councill Hall Robinson was perhaps the person most instrumental in planning and publicizing the 1955 Boycott, proposing the idea to the WPC more than a year before it was implemented. She was assisted by WPC members who included Thelma Glass, Irene West, Mary Fair Burks & others; and advised by activist E.D. Nixon & attorney Fred Gray (ASU alumnus '51) who was also eager to challenge the segregated bus law. Because of the spark that was lit here, news of the planned protest received widespread publicity & on Dec. 5, the Boycott was successful with over 90% of the city's black citizens staying off the buses. The city's black leaders extended the Boycott into a long-term campaign that lasted from Dec. 5, 1955 until Dec. 20, 1956, with widespread black support. It was successful when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed Browder v. Gayle, which struck down laws requiring segregated seating on public buses. This was the seminal birth of the modern American Civil Rights Movement.

Sponsored by the Kenneth Mullinax Foundation
[2015: Alabama State University Campus, Montgomery]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Side one

Alabama Department of Archives and History

In 1901, Alabama created the first state-funded, independent archival and historical agency in the United States. Its founding director, attorney Thomas McAdory Owen, combed the state to acquire and preserve both public and private materials that document Alabama's past from the prehistoric period forward. The agency has since continued Owen's mission, preserving the records that guarantee the rights of citizens and serve as the basis for educational programs for schools and the general public. Originally housed in the State Capitol, the agency moved to this building upon its completion in 1940. Generations of Alabamians and visitors from around the world have come here to explore the state's rich history and its many contributions to the history of the nation.

Side two

Archives and War Memorial Building

A monumental structure to house the Department of Archives and History was envisioned at the close of World War I and again in a 1930 Olmsted Brothers plan for the Capitol Complex, but inadequate resources delayed its construction. In 1937, Marie Bankhead Owen, second director of the Archives, secured New Deal funds to build the central portion of a design by architect William T. Warren of Birmingham. The building opened to national acclaim in 1940 and was dedicated as the state's World War I memorial. The addition of an east wing in 1974 and a west wing in 2005 fulfilled Warren's vision for the complete structure. In 2014, the state dedicated an expanded and updated Museum of Alabama on the second floor.

[2015: 624 Washington Avenue, Montgomery]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Cecil School

Rosenwald schools, built from 1912-1932, were conceived by Booker T. Washington and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck, to educate black children in the rural South. The Cecil school was built in 1924-25 on five acres of land as a two-teacher type at a cost of $3,850. Rosenwald funds, local donations and hands-on-work by black and white community members helped to build the school. After 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court's educational desegregation ruling rendered Rosenwald schools obsolete. Many Rosenwald schools, once the pride of their communities, have been neglected, abandoned or demolished.

Sponsored by the East Montgomery County Historical Society
[2015: Cecil]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Chantilly Plantation

Chantilly Plantation was purchased in 1832 at public outcry by Dr. Thomas Burge Taylor of Columbia, SC as a wedding gift for his bride, Harriott Pinkney Raoul. John Ashurst, its original owner, had moved further west. Harriott, a French woman, chose the name Chantilly after Chantilly, France. She was responsible for enlarging the home and landscaping the grounds in the 1830s. Chantilly supplied many goods to other area plantations. Dr. and Mrs. Taylor had no children, so Chantilly passed to his sister's children, the Charles, who lived at Rose Hill. Chantilly has descended to Dr. Taylor's heirs for eight generations.

Sponsored by the East Montgomery County Historical Society
[2015: Mt. Meigs]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Side one

Montgomery County Circuit Court Site of Major Civil Rights Cases 1956-1960

In 1956, 89 persons were indicted for violating an anti-boycott law; Rosa Parks' conviction was appealed; the Montgomery Improvement Association car pool was enjoined; and Fred D. Gray was accused of legal misrepresentation (actions in all 4 cases ended with the successful end of the boycott). In 1957, the NAACP was banned from Alabama (later overturned). In 1960, black Alabama State College and white MacMurray College (Illinois) students were jailed for eating together at the Regal Cafe, and a white and a black student were arrested for attempted desegregation of the Jefferson Davis Hotel; all convictions in these cases were reversed. Also in 1960, local black ministers were sued for libel in the case that resulted in the landmark 1964 Times v. Sullivan ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, and Martin Luther King Jr. was acquitted by an all-white jury in a tax case. African American lawyers arguing cases in the courts here included attorneys Fred D. Gray, Charles Langford, Solomon Seay Jr., Charles Conley, Orzell Billingsley, Peter Hall, Arthur Shores, and Robert Carter.

Sponsored by the Montgomery Improvement Association

Side two

Sit-Ins and Marches at the Montgomery County Courthouse

On February 25, 1960, Alabama State College students demanded service at the "Whites Only" Courthouse Grille located on this site. When refused, the students occupied all the tables. The Grille was then closed, the lights turned off, and the students asked to leave. Subsequently, 9 ASC students were expelled, a dozen professors were pressured to resign, and the president was compelled to step down. Fred D. Gray filed St. John Dixon v. Alabama as a result of these actions and ultimately the students were ordered reinstated. On March 17, 1965, after a week of voting rights demonstrations in Montgomery marred by police violence against the protesters, some 4,000 students from Montgomery and Tuskegee marched on the Montgomery County Courthouse where leaders met with city, county, state, and federal officials. During the 7-hour meeting, students sang and chanted in the rain outside. When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emerged from the meeting, he announced that officials had apologized for the recent violence.

Sponsored by the Montgomery Improvement Association
[2015: South Lawrence Street]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Side one

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was arrested on this site for refusing the order of city bus driver J. F. Blake to vacate her seat under the segregation laws of the Jim Crow era. She was taken to police headquarters at City Hall for booking, then to the municipal jail on Ripley Street. Civil rights leader E. D. Nixon, accompanied by attorney Clifford Durr, soon arrived to post her bail. Parks's arrest galvanized black leaders to organize a boycott of the bus system for December 5, the date she was to appear in Municipal Court. Her conviction and the success of the one-day bus protest inspired the creation of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) to continue what came to be known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Side two

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

The 382-day boycott was the first sustained mass demonstration against segregation in the U.S. and launched the 20th-century civil rights movement. It also thrust Martin Luther King Jr., the elected leader of the MIA, into national prominence. The boycott ended after a lawsuit filed by Mrs. Parks's attorney, Fred D. Gray, ultimately led the federal courts to declare segregated bus seating unconstitutional. Mrs. Parks went on to become a national heroine, but in the aftermath of the boycott she and her husband were denied employment in Montgomery. They moved to Detroit, where she lived out her life. She died October 24, 2005, universally honored for her courage and activism.

[2015: 252 Montgomery Street, Montgomery]

MORGAN COUNTY

Battle of Decatur

The Battle of Decatur, Oct. 26-29, 1864, was the result of Confederate Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood's effort to move his army across the Tennessee River and into central Tennessee in an attempt to reclaim Nashville. The engagement occurred as part of the larger Franklin-Nashville Campaign. The Union garrison at Decatur, commanded by U.S. Brig. Gen. Robert S. Granger, prevented Hood from crossing and forced him to move his army westward and eventually cross the river at Tuscumbia some 40 miles away. Ultimately the engagement here would delay Hood's crossing of the Tennessee River and contribute to his failure in December to retake Nashville for the Confederacy. A lack of provisions for his starving army and stiff resistance put forth by Granger's garrison, combined with the arrival of two Union gunboats, convinced Hood and his superior, Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, who had arrived on the scene the night of Oct. 27, that further action against Decatur would be foolhardy. During the engagement, the South suffered approx. 450 casualties, whereas the Union lost 155 men.

[2015: Decatur]

MORGAN COUNTY

Cherokee Trail of Tears

Of the various detachments that removed the Cherokee People from their home lands in the southeastern United States, three of them landed in Decatur at what became Rhodes Ferry Park. Due to the difficulty of navigating the Muscle Shoals portion of the Tennessee River, the Cherokee were transported from Decatur Landing to Tuscumbia Landing using the newly built Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur Railroad. On March 7, 1837, the Major Ridge party docked at Decatur with 471 Cherokee. The Lt. Edward Deas detachment landed here on June 9, 1838 with 800 Cherokee, and on June 21, 1838, the Lt. Robert H. K. Whiteley detachment landed with 1000 Cherokee. Out of the three detachments, there was but one documented fatality in Decatur, that of an elderly Cherokee woman. A second documented fatality happened en route between Decatur and Tuscumbia involving a Cherokee man crushed by the train.

[2015: Rhodes Ferry Park, Decatur]

TALLADEGA COUNTY

Tallasahatchie Baptist Church

Founded in 1833, Tallasahatchie Baptist parishioners have been meeting on this site in the same raw-log sanctuary since 1837, longer than any Baptist church in Talladega County. Its historical significance to the area was recognized in October 2014, when it was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

[2015: 3343 Tallasahatchie Road, Alpine]

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Side one

Edward Bell High School

On this site Tallapoosa County Training School, later renamed Edward Bell High School, became the first high school for African Americans in Tallapoosa County, Alabama in 1931, with graduation of its first two students in 1933. It was a pioneer educational institution for students in the County and beyond, with an emphasis on college and vocational curricula. In 1947, citizens of the community built the first gymnasium, lunchroom, and additional classrooms from donated building materials. During the late 1950's the older building burned and a new building was constructed at a nearby site. Extracurricular activities included sports, band, newspaper, photography, solar energy, hydroponics, aquaculture, greenhouse, and gardening projects. The school bore the name of Edward Bell, one of its several outstanding principals. School colors were Royal Blue and White and the mascot was the Bear.

Side two

Alma Mater

Hail to thee, Our Alma Mater, Dear
Thru the years, you've shone your beacon light
Over hills and mountain valley clear
Let our hearts go forth and show thy love and might.
Dear EBH, thou name and fame
Shall ever live and flourish through the ages.
Our school so dear, All hail to thee!
Our Alma Mater, All Hail!

[2015: Ala. Highway 50, Camp Hill]

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Fletcher Napoleon Farrington, Sr 1902 - 1968, County Agent and Civic Leader

Fletcher Farrington, after graduating from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University), came to Tallapoosa County as a county agent for the Agricultural Extension Service in 1932. Concluding that soil erosion was the local farmers' most pressing problem, he launched a cooperative program that loaned small farmers the large tractors needed to introduce the newly developed "Nichols terrace" method of plowing hillside cropland. With the support of the county judge and commissioners, the program was widely emulated as an effective soil conservation tool during the Great Depression. In 1934, Farrington organized the Dadeville Kiwanis Club and served as its first president. As county agricultural agent and Dadeville community leader, he embraced the idea of "Farm-City Week," a program that brought agricultural and business leaders together to share ideas. Soon after it was introduced to and adopted by Kiwanis International in 1955, Farrington became one of the program's national spokesmen. He retired from the Extension Service in 1961 and began working for the Alabama Farm Bureau's Rural – Urban Relations Division. There, he initiated the Agribusiness Career Day program to encourage youth to stay in farming as a business.

[2015: Dadeville]

WINSTON COUNTY

First 9-1-1 Call

The first 9-1-1 emergency services telephone call was made from the office of the mayor on February 16, 1968. Earlier in the year, AT&T, which had a near monopoly in the telephone industry at the time, had announced its plans for launching the service from an Indiana exchange. The Alabama Telephone Company, an independent entity, resolved to beat the telecommunications giant to the mark and chose the Haleyville exchange to launch its successful effort. With much fanfare, Alabama House Speaker Rankin Fite placed the first 9-1-1 call in the nation to U.S. Congressman Tom Bevill, who answered in the Haleyville police station.

[2015: 1901 11th Avenue, Haleyville]

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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SAVE THE DATE!

THE AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE will be October 7-8, 2016 in Decatur!



Old State Bank, Courtesy of the Decatur Convention and Visitors Bureau

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2018



JOIN US FOR THE 71ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Birmingham, Alabama April 12-14, 2018

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Cover Image: The Spirit of St. Louis *over Birmingham, October 1927. Five months after becoming the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, Charles Lindbergh visited Birmingham as part of a nationwide tour. (Courtesy Birmingham Public Library Archives)*

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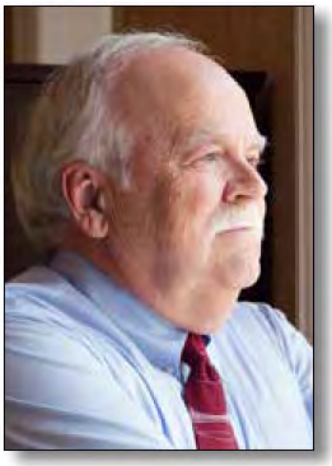
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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.



David E. Alsobrook

As my tenure as your president rapidly winds down, I want to express my deep appreciation to each of you for your continued enthusiastic support for the Alabama Historical Association and our various programs and missions. Although I joined the AHA about forty years ago, serving as president has been a tremendous learning experience for me and has reinforced my own dedication to our organization. More than anything else, I will always remember the AHA's creative, energetic members who have eagerly embraced active roles in all of our endeavors and given so much of their time and talents in our behalf.

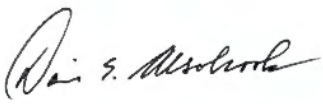
When I was growing up in the early 1950s on the Gulf Coast, Birmingham was the first "big city" in Alabama that I visited with my family. For me Birmingham truly was a "Magic City," with its panoramic vistas of mountains and valleys, Vulcan's towering presence, and the evening darkness illuminated by the fiery furnaces of countless steel mills that seemingly never slept. Over the years, Birmingham became known as the "Pittsburgh of the South"—a sprawling, gritty industrial city that primarily produced vast quantities of iron and steel.

But during the late 1950s and early 1960s, Birmingham also acquired unwelcomed notoriety as an epicenter of racial oppression and violence—captured in daily TV images of African Americans under ferocious attack by high-pressure firehoses, snarling dogs, and angry police officers. Like "Bloody Sunday" later at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the horrific bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham provided shocking, irrefutable proof that a deadly, virulent strain of racial hatred had metastasized in Alabama. Since that terrible day, as Alabamians I think each of us has struggled to place those cold-blooded murders and the entire civil rights era in some semblance of historical and personal context. And I think it is safe to say that today we are still wrestling mightily with this aspect of our own particular *Burden of Southern History*, to borrow from the title of C. Vann Woodward's iconic work.

We obviously will never forget what happened in Birmingham over sixty years ago. Today when barely a thimble-full of Alabama history is taught in our schools and colleges, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our children and grandchildren learn the facts and legacies of the civil rights movement within the context of our state's entire historical narrative. In the midst of Alabama's Bicentennial commemoration, individual stories of civil rights activists' courage and sacrifice should be chronicled equally along with the rest of our history rather than merely as obscure footnotes to the past.

Likewise, while documenting Birmingham's struggle for racial equality, we would be guilty of historical ignorance or amnesia if we neglected the city's remarkable history of ethnic diversity. In this spirit, I call to your attention Jim Baggett and Dr. Regina Ammon's incisive, scholarly contribution in this newsletter about Birmingham's community of immigrants—many of whom originally arrived in the 1880s and dramatically shaped the city's future economic, social, political, cultural, and demographic development.

Along with my distinguished AHA colleague, Mark Wilson, I wish to conclude with a brief message of appreciation to everyone who contributed so much time and effort over the past year in preparation for our meeting. I simply cannot say enough in recognition of the tireless efforts of our Local Arrangements Committee: Jim Baggett, Beth Hunter, Pam King, Jim Lewis, and Deborah Love. Dr. Victoria Ott has organized an outstanding program of papers for your edification and enjoyment. Laura Murray designed the local maps that are essential to navigating downtown Birmingham. These individuals, joined by our various academic and civic partners, look forward to seeing AHA and the Alabama Association of Historians members in Birmingham in April.



David E. Alsobrook

BIRMINGHAM BOUND:
THE MAGIC CITY'S MELTING POT

Sometimes a story is captured in a moment. This happened when one of this article's authors sat with Ashfaq Taufique, a Pakistani American and President of the Birmingham Islamic Society while his wife Rita served Christmas cookies made from her Italian grandmother's recipe. Just as good food is made up of many ingredients, a strong community is made up of many different kinds of people. And Birmingham has always been a diverse place. For much of its history, as historian William Barnard noted, Birmingham's ethnic makeup "bore as much resemblance to a middle-western or northeastern industrial city as it did to Savannah, Charleston, Montgomery, or Memphis." With his journey to Birmingham, Ashfaq Taufique followed in the footsteps of fellow immigrants—Greeks, Italians, Germans, Irish, Welsh, Slavs, Syrians, Lebanese, and many others—dating back two centuries. A student activist in his home country, Ashfaq was imprisoned twice before his mother—the "mover and the shaker in the family"—convinced him to leave for America. In the United States, he completed his education and worked as a nuclear engineer, living in various states before settling in Alabama.



Ashfaq Taufique (center) as a young activist in Pakistan.

In 1884, Birmingham's first known Greek immigrant, a sailor named George Cassimus, arrived to make his fortune in a city growing so fast it was already known as "The Magic City." The rich mineral deposits in the area provided the ingredients for making iron and steel, and mills struggled to fill shifts to keep the molten material flowing. Upon arriving from Greece aboard a British ship, George settled for a while in the port city of Mobile, but the opportunities waiting in the bustling and smoky industrial city of Birmingham encouraged him to move. While working for the Birmingham Fire Department, George learned enough English and saved enough money to open a short order seafood restaurant. He wasn't working in the mills, but George was part of the large service industry that emerged during the economic boom.

In early Birmingham, stories like George's were familiar. Nearly everyone was a new arrival. As a city that grew from a few cabins in a cornfield in 1870 to one of the largest manufacturing centers in the nation by the early 1900s, Birmingham attracted tens of thousands of people. The city's industrialists courted potential workers throughout the United States and Europe, promising an "Eldorado of iron masters" and, perhaps most enticing of all, a "paradise of lovely women." Sharecroppers from rural Alabama and immigrants from Europe and the Mediterranean came to Birmingham in search of better economic opportunities. Regular paychecks from the mills replaced the uncertainties of farming. With only a little capital and a little English, anyone could run a successful fruit stand and then maybe a grocery store or restaurant.

Letters describing prosperity, and the money proving it, were mailed home and prompted family and neighbors to set out for the Magic City themselves. The Lebanese and Italians who settled in Birmingham hailed from only a handful of villages. Most of the Lebanese families came from the town of Zahle. Roughly ninety percent of the



Greek immigrants Anastasia Macris Covollos and her new husband George Covollos in 1900. Their nuptials were said to have been the first Greek wedding in Birmingham.



Sicilian Carmella Anselmo (right, standing) with students from one of her English language classes.

Italian immigrants came from Sicily, especially from villages near Bisacquino. Sicilian schoolteacher Carmella Anselmo came to Birmingham in 1921 for a short visit with her brother and decided to stay. Carmella taught in the Birmingham city schools and in her free time she taught English and citizenship classes to other Italian immigrants. Photographs of Carmella and her classes of work-worn men determined to succeed in their new land speak volumes about the immigrant experience.

The influence of Birmingham's immigrant communities was readily apparent. Near the offices of the mainstream Birmingham *News* and the *Age* newspapers were the presses for the German language Alabama *Staats Zeitung* and the Birmingham *Deutsches Volksblatt* and the Italian newspapers *H Libero Pensiero* and *L'Aquila*. Lebanese and Greek immigrants established schools to teach their children the languages of their parents. Houses of worship for congregations from distant homelands settled in among the Baptist and Methodist churches. The onion dome of St. Nicholas Orthodox Catholic Church rose above the houses in the Slavic neighborhood. In 1904, Father John Canepa of Genoa arrived to help found three Italian Catholic churches. Turn-of-the-century Birmingham included the congregations of the Evangelishe Friedens Kirch, Temples Emanu-El and Beth-El, and St. Elias Maronite Church.

Many Birmingham immigrants found work in the coal mines, limestone quarries, or steel mills, while many others established businesses to cater to these laborers and their families. Grocery stores, fruit stands, dairies, five & dime stores, and myriad other businesses opened in Birmingham, making it as cosmopolitan as any port city. During his lifetime, George Cassimus could have found within walking distance of his restaurant many businesses owned by his countrymen. He may have eaten at George Grammatikakis's cafe or bought candy at the Pappageorge Brothers confectioners shop. Perhaps he bought fruit from William Bosbonos, George Kalavis, or Alex Kontos, the millionaire "Banana King" of Birmingham.

George Cassimus probably traded with many other immigrant merchants in his neighborhood. He was near Otto Marx's brokerage house and Moses Pititz's department store. He could have purchased groceries from Filippo Lombardo or Salvador Perigoni, a beer from Ferdinand Kareulhaus, jewelry from Isadore Rubenstein, a new suit from Abraham Rumniank, furniture from Pete Zinszer, art supplies from Messieurs Abo-Samra & Kandela, and odds-and-ends from itinerant peddler Abdallah Boohaker. Should his own business really expand, George could hire decorators from J.L. Chalifoux & Company, many of them French, to furnish his home.

Some immigrants, especially Italians, were more willing than native whites to open businesses in African American neighborhoods. By 1930, Birmingham counted more than 300 Italian-owned grocery stores, many on corners



Greek immigrant Alex Kontos (third from left), began as a fruit peddler and became prosperous "Banana King" of Birmingham. All "carloads of bananas are consigned to him only," a contemporary explained, "and he is the supreme arbiter of their destiny … he is our miniature Rockefeller."

in black communities. One of these was Joseph Bruno's store, which grew from a small, family-owned business opened by a peddler to a successful chain boasting over 160 stores in five states.

As in other places, Birmingham's ethnic diversity sometimes led to tensions. In the early-twentieth century, the city's native white Protestants consistently voted for the prohibition of alcohol and Sunday movies, while the city's Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Jewish immigrants welcomed the chance to see a show or relax with a beer on their one day off. In the 1920s, anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic hysteria led to the murder of a Catholic priest. But despite past (and present) tensions, Birmingham is enriched by and immensely proud of its ethnic heritage. For a city of its size Birmingham is still, unexpectedly, cosmopolitan.

Lured here now by the temperate climate, relatively low cost of living, and a booming economy based largely on banking and the medical and hospital industry, Birmingham's immigrant populations, now including people from many Asian, African, and Hispanic countries, bring many different experiences, wonderful cuisine, and varied perspectives. Restaurants specializing in kafta kabobs, souvlaki, pad thai, sushi, gnocchi, and haute cuisine have settled in among the barbecue places and meat-and-three diners and have both changed the flavor of this once-industrial town and contributed to



Many of Birmingham's Italian immigrants operated small corner groceries. This is the Catanzano Brothers grocery store on Fourth Avenue North.

its sense of continuity. Each year Birmingham residents line up, sometimes by the thousands, to sample dolmathes at the Greek Food Festival, matzo ball soup at the Jewish Food Festival, baked kibbe at the Lebanese Food Festival, spinach pies at the St. George Middle Eastern Food Festival, Jasmine tea at the Asian Cultures and Food Festival, pasta at the Feast of St. Mark Italian Festival, and (we know from personal experience) rum-soaked rice pudding at the Magic City Caribbean Food and Music Festival.

And twenty-first-century Birmingham's ethnic makeup is no longer that different from many Southern cities, and certainly not different from many American cities and small towns. In this way, and many others both good and bad, Birmingham has always been a very American place.

James L. Baggett is Head of the Birmingham Public Library Archives and Archivist for the City of Birmingham. Dr. Regina Ammon is an independent historian living in Birmingham. *Special thanks to Catherine Champion for her editorial assistance. An earlier version of this article appeared in Archival Outlook. Photos courtesy of Birmingham Public Library Archives.*



Many Eastern European immigrants settled in the Brookside community and worked as miners. In this 1937 photograph the Bensko brothers – John, Mike, and George – return from work.



While integrating themselves into American society, many Birmingham immigrants also held on to their ethnic identities. Here are students from St. Elias Arabic School, established to teach Lebanese children to read, write, and speak Arabic.

UAB History Department Welcomes AHA to Birmingham with Thursday Night Reception

The UAB History Department invites members to attend an opening reception for the annual meeting at the UAB National Alumni House (1301 10th Avenue South) on Thursday, April 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. Limited parking is available on site, but additional parking is available along the street, as well as in a lot across from the street from the Alumni House. UAB students studying history will present posters outlining and illustrating various research projects.

The UAB History Department offers bachelor's and master's degrees in history, and students regularly intern at local historical sites such as Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Vulcan Park, Sloss Furnaces, Southern Museum of Flight, and Rickwood Field, as well as the sites AHA members will tour on Friday afternoon.

"The history department is delighted that AHA chose downtown Birmingham for the 71st annual meeting. So many of our faculty and students have been involved with public history efforts in our city, and we know everyone will discover something new as a result," says Pam King, Assistant Professor and AHA Board Member.



FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOUR: **Historic Renovation Walking Tour**

David Fleming, CEO of REV Birmingham, will explore history through architecture by leading a walking tour of renovated and repurposed historic buildings in the city's downtown. Starting on beautiful Morris Avenue the tour will include the John Hand Building (one of four early twentieth century skyscrapers making up the "Heaviest Corner on Earth") and look at the ways old buildings have found new life. The tour will finish at the Pizitz Building, formerly a grand department store and now a mixed-use retail and residential development. Participants can end their tour by grabbing a drink or snack at one of the many restaurants and food counters in the Pizitz Food Hall.

Participants will walk approximately five blocks, and there is no charge for the Renovation Walking Tour.

Walking tours will depart from Morris Avenue at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm.







FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOUR: **Civil Rights District**

The Birmingham Civil Rights District Tour includes Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (bcri.org), Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (16thstreetbaptist.org), and the Ballard House (ballardhouseproject.org).

You may tour these three locations on-your-own between 1 and 5 p.m., or you may participate in the following guided tours:

1:00 p.m. Docent-led tour of **Sixteenth Street Baptist Church**, designed by African American architect Wallace Rayfield, and the site of a tragic bombing in 1963. **$5 per person**

2:30 p.m. Tour of Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, led by Dr. Jonathan Bass, author of *Blessed are the Peacemakers: Martin Luther King Jr., Eight White Religious Leaders, and the "Letter from the Birmingham Jail."* **$10 per person**

Docent-led tour of the **Ballard House** (1940), a cultural, education, and social space honoring



Birmingham's African-American community in the decades prior to the Civil Rights Movement. Majella Hamilton will be available from 1 to 5 pm for tours. **$5 per person**

See registration form for payment information.



FRIDAY AFTERNOON TOUR: **Historic Birmingham Theatres**

The Birmingham Theatre District Tour includes the Alabama Theater and the Lyric Theatre. Guided tours of both theatres will take place on Friday afternoon and the cost is $15 per person **(see registration form for payment information).**

The Alabama Theatre was built in 1927 by Paramount Studios as an Alabama showcase for Paramount films and features an ornate Mighty Wurlitzer organ. It was used primarily as a movie palace for 55 years, with the exception of the annual Miss Alabama pageant and the weekly Mickey Mouse Club. In 1998, the Theatre underwent a complete front door to back door restoration. In 8 months, the theatre went from its look of faded grandeur to a sparkling 1927 look with all the gold leaf paint either replaced or cleaned. See the beautiful theater auditorium and go below stage to see the dressing rooms, work rooms, and shops that made the magic possible. Visit alabamatheatre.com for more information.

The Lyric, built in 1914 for B.F. Keith's Vaudeville circuit, is one of few theatres still existing today that was specifically designed to maximize the acoustics and close seating needed for vaudeville shows. In its heyday the Lyric played host to legendary performers including Eddie Cantor, Will Rogers, Buster Keaton, Milton Berle, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, and the Marx Brothers. During the 1920s, it was the custom to attend shows at the Lyric Theatre on Monday nights, when tickets cost from 25 to 75 cents. In the summertime, air was fanned over two tons of ice a day to keep guests cool. Though seating was segregated, the Lyric was one of the first venues in the South where blacks and whites could watch the same show at the same time for the same price. Visit lyricbham.com for more information.



Photos Courtesy the Historic Alabama and Lyric Theatres



71st Meeting of the Alabama Historical As



THURSDAY, APRIL 12

PRE-MEETING OPPORTUNITIES

See pages 16 for important details.

1:00 p.m.	**Genealogy Workshop @ Birmingham Public Library**
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	**Guided Tours of Arlington Antebellum Home**
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	**Guided Tours of Stinson Ole Place and Hale-Joseph Home**
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	**Reception, hosted by UAB History Department**
	UAB Alumni House
	1301 10th Avenue South

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 a.m.	**Registration, Coffee, Book Sales**
	DoubleTree by Hilton, Birmingham
9:00 a.m.	**General Session**
	DoubleTree by Hilton, Birmingham
10:45 a.m.	**Concurrent Sessions**

SESSION A

- "Birmingham City Schools and the Persistence of History in Public Memory"
 Wes Lybrand, Ramsey High School, Birmingham, Alabama
- "Liberalism, Anti-Civil Rights Backlash, and Alabama's 9-8 Plan"
 Charles Roberts, Andrew College
- "Grassroots Historians and the Defining of an African Heritage in Alabama"
 Justin Rudder, Alabama Department of Archives and History

SESSION B

- "Agricola Wilkins: Hopeless in 1830s Mobile"
 Donnelly Walton, University of Alabama Library Special Collections
- "An 'Able Defense of Civil and Religious Liberty': The 1855 Battle against Know-Nothingism in Mobile, Alabama"
 Lonnie Burnett, University of Mobile
- "'More or Less Arbitrary': The Story Behind the Placement of the Alabama-Mississippi Border"
 Mike Bunn, Historic Blakeley Park

SESSION C

- "Sara J. Hatcher Duncan, Pinnacle of Women's Power in the A.M.E. Church: Her Alabama Journey from Emancipation to Jim Crow"
 Linda Derry, Alabama Historical Commission, Old Cahawba Archaeological Park
- "Life in Rural Jackson County, Alabama 1934-1938: The Diaries of Charles Rice Coffey"
 Annette Norris Bradford, Jackson County Historical Association
- "Fritz Ritz: The Experience of German Prisoners of War in World War II Alabama"
 Emily Amos, University of Mobile

Noon	**Lunch**
	DoubleTree by Hilton, Birmingham
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	**Friday Afternoon Tours**
6:00 p.m.	**Cash Bar**
	DoubleTree by Hilton, Birmingham
7:00 p.m.	**Annual Awards Banquet**

sociation in Birmigham, April 12-14, 2018

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales**
DoubleTree by Hilton, Birmingham

9:00 a.m. **General Session**
DoubleTree by Hilton, Birmingham

10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

SESSION A

Panel discussion with contributors to *Alabama Women: Their Lives and Times*, moderated by co-editor Susan Youngblood Ashmore, Oxford College of Emory University.

Panelists include:

- Harriet E. Amos Doss, University of Alabama, Birmingham
- Kimberly Hill, University of Texas at Dallas
- Rebecca Cawood McIntyre, Middle Tennessee State University
- Tina Naremore Jones, University of West Alabama
- Susan Youngblood Ashmore, Emory University



SESSION B

- "Some Birmingham Boys in the Great War, 1917"
 Carolyn Satterfield, Birmingham, Alabama
- "Montgomery Motor Corps: Patriotism and Southern Hospitality in Khaki Skirts and Sam Browne Belts"
 Laura Newland Hill, Encyclopedia of Alabama
- "The Shadow Tiger: Billy McDonald Wingman to Chennault"
 William McDonald, Independent Scholar, Birmingham, Alabama

SESSION C

- "'At His Agreeable Villa in the Suburbs:' A Brief History of Snake Shoals and Boykin's Plantation"
 Rachel Dobson, Independent Scholar, Cottondale, Alabama
- "What Comes After Freedom? Past Themes and Future Prospects in Interpreting Emancipation and Reconstruction"
 Anthony Gene Carey, Appalachian State University
- "An Impressive and Sad State: West Point Manufacturing Company and the General Textile Strike of 1934 in Chambers County, Alabama"
 Andrew Harrison Baker, Auburn University

11:45 a.m. **Annual Luncheon**
Presidential Address by Dr. David Alsobrook
DoubleTree by Hilton, Birmingham





Hotel & Meeting Venue

DoubleTree by Hilton Birmingham
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Contact the hotel by March 22 to receive a special rate of $119 per night. Reserve online using the code **AHS**.

Reception

a UAB Alumni House
1301 10th Avenue South

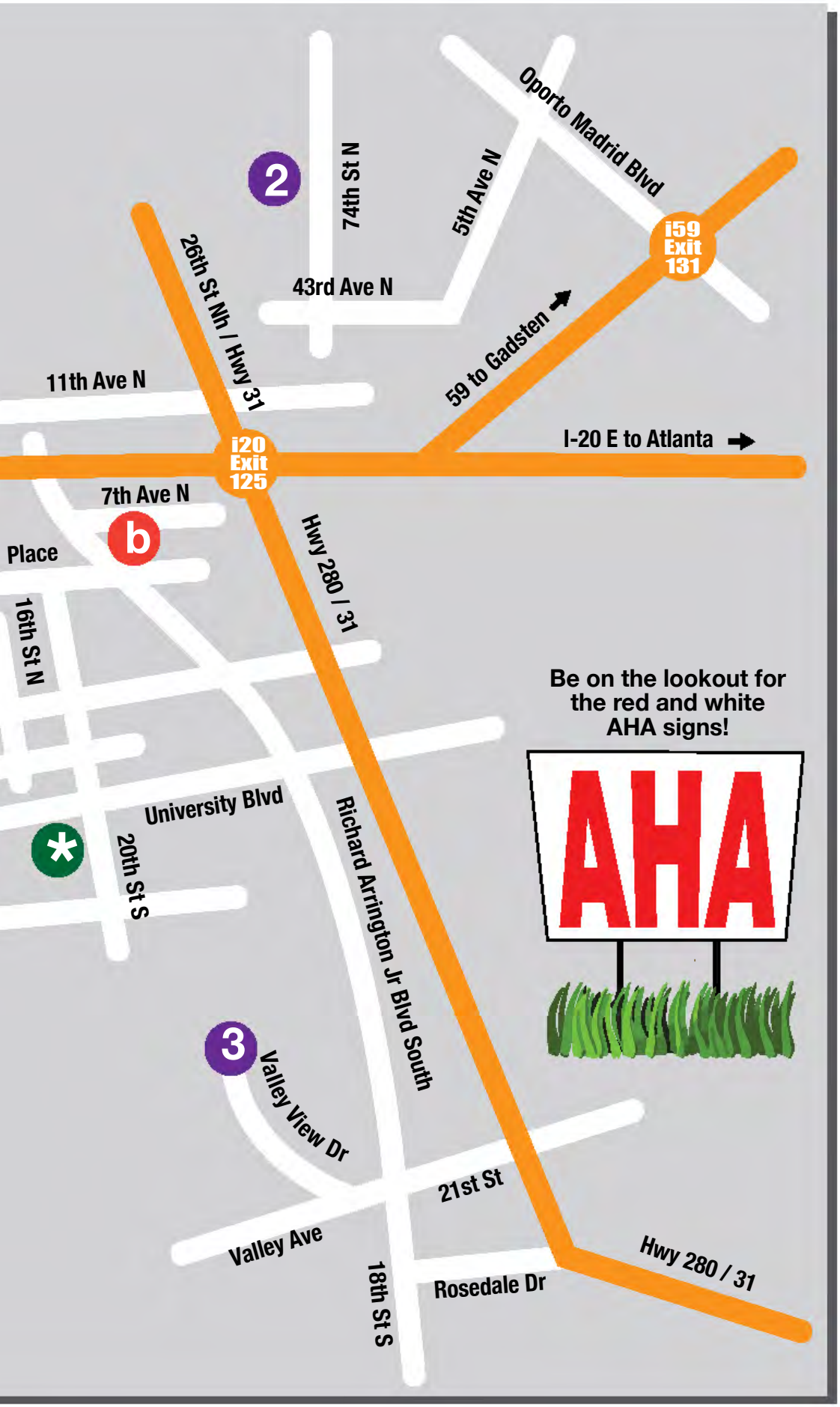
Pre-Meeting Opportunities

(See pages 16 & 17 for more information)

b Birmingham Public Library Central Branch
2100 Park Place
Free Geneaology Workshop

c Arlington Antebellum Home and Gardens
331 Cotton Avenue SW
$2 per person

d Stinson Ole Place
Hoover Historical Society
PARKING: 2136 Bluff Road • Hoover, AL 35266



Additional Sites of Interest:

1. **Oak Hill Cemetery**
 1120 19th Street North
 oakhillbirmingham.com

2. **Southern Museum of Flight**
 4343 73rd Street North
 southernmuseumofflight.com

3. **Vulcan Park and Museum**
 1701 Valley View Dr
 visitvulcan.com

4. **Negro Southern League Museum**
 120 16th St S
 birminghamnslm.org

Additional tour sites and locations will be announced closer to the meeting. The QR code below will be updated at that time.

Please don't rely on the scale of this map for navigation. Scan this QR code below for access to the Google Map:

Pre-Meeting Opportunity:

FREE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

A free genealogy workshop will be offered at the Birmingham Public Library Central Branch (2100 Park Place) on Thursday, April 12, from 1 to 3 pm. The workshop is limited to 80 participants, who must be registered online in advance at https://aub.ie/AHAGenealogyWorkshop.

The workshop will consist of two tracks: Beginner (limited to 20) and Intermediate (limited to 60). Topics include African American and Native American research, the Alabama First Families program, Digital Resources, and DNA for family history.

Plan to arrive at 12:30 p.m. for registration so that the workshop can begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. Parking is available at the Birmingham Public Library and also at the parking lot across the street from the library at the corner of Richard Arrington Blvd. and Seventh Avenue North (enter from Seventh Avenue).

The workshop is sponsored by the Alabama Genealogical Society, Alabama Heritage, Birmingham African American Genealogy Group, Alabama Historical Association, and the Birmingham Public Library. For more information, contact Dr. Donna Cox Baker at donna.baker@ua.edu.

Stinson Ole Place in Hoover

The Hoover Historical Society maintains the Stinson Ole Place, an 1840s two-story house built of hand-hewn logs by the Hugh Acey Mack Stinson family. The house originally stood in rural Shelby County off Highway 25 between Columbiana and Wilsonville, Alabama, on a wooden plank road called the Columbiana Turnpike. The house includes historic furnishings and is surrounded by a number of interesting outbuildings and structures. The Stinson Ole Place serves as The Folklore Center to area schoolchildren.

Also available for tour will be the Hale-Joseph Home (1910). Be sure to see Ross Creek Bridge, the historic Civil War-era bridge on a railroad supply line. Tours will be available from **2 to 4 p.m.** and there will be no charge for AHA members. For more information, visit www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org.

Arlington Antebellum Home and Gardens

Arlington Antebellum Home and Gardens (331 Cotton SW) will be open for guided tours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (last tour begins at 3 p.m.) Arlington is a former plantation house and six acres of landscaped gardens near downtown Birmingham. The two-story frame structure was built between 1845–50 and features antebellum-era Greek Revival architecture. The house serves as a decorative arts museum, featuring a collection of nineteenth-century furniture, textiles, silver, and paintings. The garden features a restored garden room that is used for special events. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 2, 1970. Tours for AHA members are $2 per person. Visit http://arlingtonantebellumhomeandgardens.com for more information.





Birmingham Archivist Jim Baggett to Deliver Local Feature

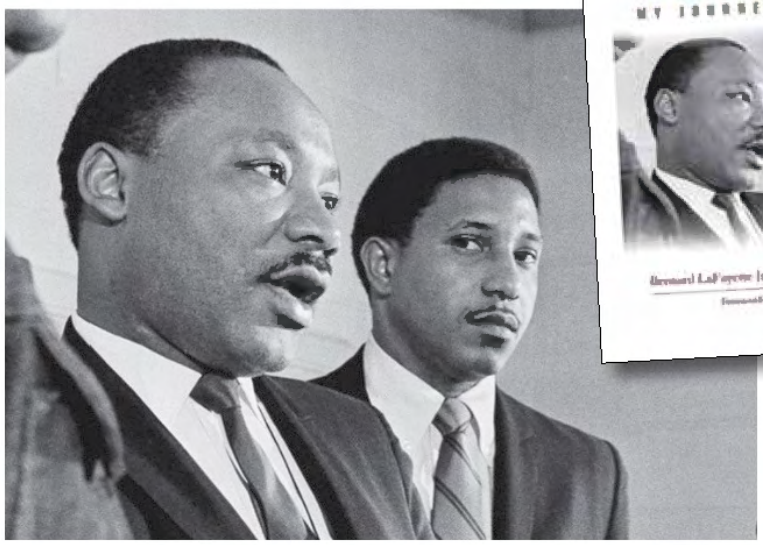


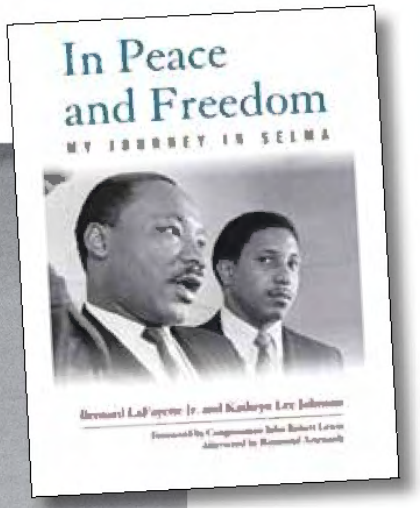
Jim Baggett, Head of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library and Archivist for the City of Birmingham, will discuss the history of Birmingham on Friday morning of the annual meeting. He has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists and Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission. Jim has lectured throughout the U.S. and Europe and has been featured on Alabama Public Television, National Public Radio and CSPAN. A prolific author of Birmingham history, he has written or edited four books on Birmingham and Alabama history, including *A Woman of the Town: Louise Wooster, Birmingham's Magdalen* and *Alabama Illustrated: Engravings from 19th Century Newspapers*.

Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. to Deliver Banquet Address



Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., a civil rights icon and internationally-recognized leader in nonviolent social change, will provide the keynote address at the AHA's Annual Award Banquet. LaFayette was a co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960 and an organizer of the Nashville Movement Lunch Counter Sit-Ins, 1960. He participated in the Freedom Rides of 1961 and directed the Alabama Voter Registration Project in Selma in 1962. He was appointed National Program Administrator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and National Coordinator of the Poor People's Campaign by Martin Luther King, Jr in 1968. He is the author (with Kathryn Lee Johnson) of *In Peace and Freedom: My Journey in Selma*, winner of a Lillian Smith Book Award. He is currently Chair of the Board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.





CLEBURNE COUNTY

SHOAL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

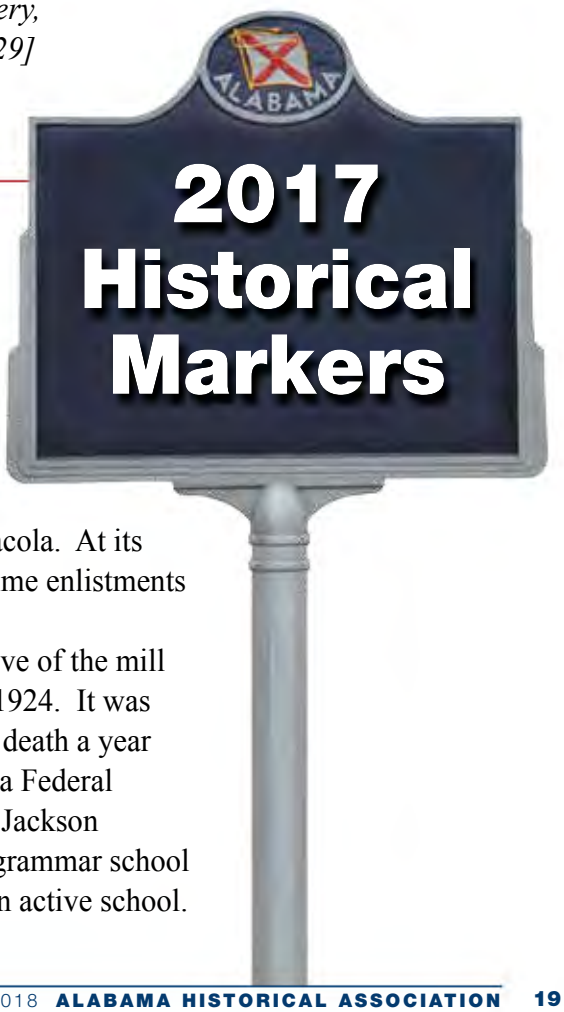
The first of three Baptist Churches was built on this site about 1842 as white pioneer settlers increased. The present building was constructed about 1895. The only surviving church book, begun in 1898, shows sixty-eight male and seventy-six female members. In the early years of the twentieth century the population decreased to the point that the diminishing membership ceased meeting here in 1914. Occasional events, including weddings, reunions, and "old-fashioned" church services are held at the church by reservation. Since 1921, an annual Sacred Harp shape note singing held each Labor Day is the only regular service.

The 2.83-acre site is private property surrounded by the Talladega National Forest; the U.S. Forest Service maintains the road leading to the site. For more than a century, descendants of early settlers have periodically maintained the building and its adjoining cemetery. In 1986, they formally organized the Shoal Creek Church Preservation Society under the leadership of William Lee Jones, grandson of an original builder. This non-profit entity represents scores of area families bearing such names as Cheatwood, Holley, Edwards, Coleman, Roach, Dunn, Thompson, Johnson, Knighten, and Jones.
[Talladega National Forest, Fruithurst,]

CRENSHAW COUNTY

DANIEL DOZIER
(August 15, 1805 – November 4, 1878)

Born in South Carolina and orphaned as a young child, Daniel Dozier arrived in Alabama around 1817. As an adult, he operated a large farm and grist mill and served as minister for several area churches. He was a moderator and leader in the Conecuh River Association for more than fifty years. He married Elizabeth "Betsey" Taylor in 1824. The couple had fifteen children. Daniel Dozier died in 1878 and is buried in Good Hope Primitive Baptist Cemetery in Covington County. The town of Dozier is named in his honor. Incorporated in 1907, Dozier was known as "The Flowing Well City," because of the many artesian wells located there, including one in the town center, which provided water for residents and livestock. Another artesian well filled the public swimming pool. In the early twentieth century, the vibrant town of Dozier included a train depot, hotel, post office, bank, several mercantile stores, a feed mill, cotton gin, lumber mill, textile mill, telephone exchange, doctor's office, and a school.
[Dozier Cemetery, U.S. Highway 29]



COVINGTON COUNTY

W.S. HARLAN SCHOOL

William Stewart Harlan was the manager of Jackson Lumber Company in Lockhart, established in the early twentieth century as a mill town during the booming demand for longleaf yellow pine. Marketed as Dixie Rift Flooring and Dixie Poles and Piling, the superior lumber produced at the Lockhart mill was used in the construction of New York's Grand Central Station and other buildings of stature in Virginia, Maryland, Louisiana, and Washington, D.C. Jackson Lumber Company also produced creosoted wood blocks that were used for paving streets in cities like Atlanta and Pensacola. At its height, the company employed 1,000 people. Dwindling resources and wartime enlistments resulted in the mill's closure in 1940.

Schooling began here in 1903, in a three-room structure serving seventy-five of the mill town's children. The main grammar school building at this site was built in 1924. It was named in honor of W. S. Harlan, who had ensured its construction before his death a year earlier. The junior high building was added in 1939, part of the New Deal-era Federal Works Project. Both buildings were constructed with materials produced by Jackson Lumber Company and continue to serve students of the Lockhart area. The grammar school building is the oldest schoolhouse in Covington County still functioning as an active school.
[1641 Mohegan Street, Lockhart]

FRANKLIN COUNTY

FRANKLIN – A COUNTY OLDER THAN THE STATE

The Alabama Territorial Legislature created Franklin County on February 6, 1818, from lands ceded two years earlier by the Chickasaw and Cherokee nations. The county was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin. The first sheriff was James Frazier. The first probate judge was John S. Fulton, appointed in 1821. At its creation, Franklin County consisted of more than 1200 square miles and just two towns, Russell's Valley (Russellville) and Big Springs (Tuscumbia). The creation of Colbert County in 1867 from the northern portion of Franklin reduced greatly its original size. Tuscumbia became the seat of the new county.

In 1818, Joseph Heslip constructed Alabama Iron Works, the state's first iron ore furnace. Iron produced at the Franklin County facility, which was later renamed Cedar Creek Furnace, aided in both the Mexican War and Civil War. In July 1864, Union Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau destroyed the furnace during his raid through Alabama.

Franklin County has made several notable contributions to the area of higher education. The origins of Alabama's first state-chartered college are in the county. The Methodist Church established LaGrange College there in 1830. The first graduate, J. D. Malone, was a native of nearby Limestone County. In 1855, the college relocated to Florence, Lauderdale County. In 1974, it was renamed the University of North Alabama. John Nooe, the first graduate of the University of Alabama, was a son of Franklin County. Russellville native Luther Noble Duncan served as Auburn president from 1935 until his death in 1947.

In 1881, 25 residents of Franklin County organized Alabama's first chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Members of the group had previously attended meetings of the order in neighboring Mississippi. Alabama Charity Chapter #1 received its charter a decade thereafter. When a fire destroyed the original lodge, located in Burleson, it relocated to Vina and then Red Bay.

The oldest marked grave in Franklin County is that of Maj. James Dorman, a veteran of the War of 1812, who died on April 11, 1819.

[300 Limestone Street, Russellville]

HISTORY OF RUSSELLVILLE

First known as Russell's Valley, the area was settled after 1815 by Maj. William Russell, who served with Gen. Andrew Jackson in the Creek War of 1813-1814. Russell built a cabin and trading post about three miles east of the present-day town. Following an outbreak of disease, the settlement relocated along the strategically important Jackson's Military Road from Nashville to New Orleans. The Alabama Territorial Legislature incorporated the town, then called Russellville, on November 27, 1819. The task of laying out the new town fell to the five trustees of the Russellville Land Company: David Moore, Anthony Winston, Brice M. Garner, George Martin, and Richard Ellis. They designed a large public square bounded by Jackson, Lawrence, Washington, and Franklin streets. Henry Hurst built the courthouse and jail that occupied the center of the town square.

Trustees governed the town through much of its early history. The first trustees were William Lewis, Walter Otley, Nat Clay, Humphrey Warren, and Arthur F. Hopkins. In 1887, Russellville adopted a mayor-council form of government. The town served as the seat of Franklin County from 1820 to 1849 and since 1891.

[1000 N. Jackson Avenue, Russellville]

HENRY COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK, ALABAMA

The now dead town of Little Rock stood here, along a vital Native American trading route which joined northeast Henry County to the Gulf. A U.S. Post Office opened here on April 10, 1820. Amos Wheeler was the first postmaster, succeeded by Henry W. Conway on October 17, 1822. The post office later closed, but was reopened on February 18, 1899, with John C. Culpepper as postmaster. James Holt Herring took over the job on March 29, 1901. The post office was then located on his homestead; his wife, Arrie Gertrude Herring, served as postal clerk and assistant. On June 30, 1904, the Little Rock post office was permanently closed. Mail deliveries were transferred to the post office in Abbeville.

Inc., and Steven H. Stokes, M.D., great-grandson of James Holt Herring.

[County Road 194, two miles beyond County Road 57]

LAWRENCE COUNTY

O. C. STANLEY GROCERY AND SERVICE STATION

Built on this site in 1921, the store was a vital enterprise and local gathering place for African American residents of Town Creek and the surrounding rural communities. The Rev. O. C. Stanley owned and operated the business for more than six decades, expanding it from a simple grocery store and service station to include dry-cleaning and taxi services. When he first opened the store, eggs sold for 10¢ per dozen, meat for 10¢ a pound, and twenty-five pounds of flour for 50¢. After the original building burned, Stanley constructed a separate building to house his dry-cleaning service, renamed City Cleaners.

Born May 4, 1904, O. C. Stanley served as a minister for three area Baptist churches. In 1937, he built and served as the original pastor of First Baptist Church of Leighton, the town's first black Baptist church. He married Elsie King Stanley of Leighton. The couple had ten children. A farmer, freemason, member of the Order of the Eastern Star, trustee of the North Alabama Baptist Academy, and a charter member of the Valleywide Improvement Assoc. of Courtland, Stanley died on August 1, 1987.
[2857 Alabama Highway 20, Town Creek]

MACON COUNTY

BATTLE OF CHEHAW STATION

In July 1864, Union Gen. Wm. T. Sherman sent Maj. Gen. L.H. Rousseau to Alabama with 2500 cavalry to cut the rail link remaining to Confederates defending Atlanta: the West Point & Montgomery Railroad. On 18 July, 3 Union units arrived at Chehaw Station, to be opposed by about 500 Confederates, mostly volunteers 15-17 years old who had never been under fire, were poorly armed, outnumbered, & commanded by an officer they had never seen. 1st Ala. Reserves came by freight from Pollard; 54 Univ. of Ala. cadets joined at Montgomery; conscripts from Camp Watts in Notasulga met them at Chehaw Station. Maj. Bryan Thomas, in overall command, took their train over Uphaupee Creek trestle to Beaseley's tank, where Union Maj. Baird reported he had met "a superior force of the enemy." Obsolete muskets faced Sharps carbines & Spenser repeating rifles for several hours before Union reinforcements arrived, forcing the Boys' Brigade to fall back. Rousseau then withdrew his men rather than to delay further destroying the railroad. Final casualty count: Cadets, 2 wounded; Reserves, 48 killed or wounded; conscripts, 15 wounded, 17 missing. The Union had 3 killed, 11 wounded, and 1 captured.
[Alabama 199, near mile marker 2.]

MOBILE COUNTY

HOME OF JOE CAIN

Joseph Stillwell Cain Jr., recognized today as the patron saint of Mardi Gras in Mobile, purchased this plot of land in 1859 for $500, along with his wife of more than three years, Elizabeth Rabby Cain. The couple built a four-room classic revival cottage on what was then named New Hampshire Street. Here they raised a family of three girls and two boys. Joe Cain, who was the longtime clerk of Mobile's Southern Market, lived here at the time of his famous ride through Mobile with the Lost Cause Minstrels on Shrove Tuesday, February 25, 1868. The Cains remained here for nearly seventeen years, leaving for a new home in Bayou La Batre in 1877, where they lived until Joe Cain's death in 1904. Elizabeth Cain died there in 1907.
[906 Augusta Street, Mobile]



MOBILE COUNTY *Continued*

MEMORIAL PARK

Dedicated on March 21, 1926, near what was then the western city limits of Mobile, the park was made possible by the Mothers' Army and Navy League, a volunteer women's group organized in the city during the Great War. Fundraising for Memorial Park began 11 days after war's end. Government Street trolleys used the short streets surrounding the park to circle back towards downtown. The area around Memorial Park was referred to as "the Loop," a moniker which persisted through much of the century even as the city expanded westward.

Designed by local architect George B. Rogers, the park's monument is made of Sylacauga marble and displays the names of 63 soldiers and sailors from the Mobile region who died during the war. The League raised more than $20,000 for the memorial, primarily through subscriptions purchased by the family and friends of the men listed on the bronze plaques. The names of 53 additional wartime casualties, black and white, were not included on the original memorial. An ordinance protecting the site established it as Mobile's exclusive memorial to the Great War.

The following were the names of soldiers and sailors from the Mobile area who died during the war which were not included in the original memorial:

Banks, Charlie	Branson, Bascomb Newton	Brown, Carter M.
Bush, Sim	Chestang, Lee J.	Childs, William G.
Coleman, Dennis	Coronas, Peter M.	Crawford, Carl B.
Creel, John W.	Dailey, George	Daw, Denley
Dumas, William	Durham, Maxwell L.	Gailyard, Leonard
Gibson, Johny	Gilbreath, Walter P.	Grubb, Everett J.
Hanson, Carl	Henderson, Lewis	Hunter, Charles Leonard
Hunter, Willie	Jackson, Ervin	Jones, Coleman
Jones, Richard	Jones, Thomas	Junius, Gabe
Keenum, Hugh R.	Kirk, Bozzie	Liepf, Robert L.
Lloyd, Joe	McCullum, Leonard F.	McNair, Cleveland
Matthews, George	Mayson, Robert D.C.	Moore, William C.
Poe, Arthur	Rembert, Armstead	Singleton, Harry
Smith, George	Smith, Wilson	Thomas, George
Thomas, Ike	Turner, Marion	Vamboras, Frank
Westry, Willie	Wilkins, Frank Thomas	Williams, Frank
Williams, George	Williams, James	Williams, Jms.
Williams, Jeremiah M.	Williams, Phillip	

[1800 Airport Boulevard, Mobile]

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

DADEVILLE COCA-COLA COMPANY, 1912-1934

In 1912, Adam Hill Wilder opened a Coca-Cola bottling plant at the corner of Cussetta and West streets. Wilder's plant produced the beverage in 6.5-ounce glass bottles, filled one at a time by machine. A case of thirty-four bottles cost 80¢. For two decades, the franchise serviced communities in Tallapoosa County east of the Tallapoosa River, including regular routes between Camp Hill, Carrville, Dadeville, Dudleyville, Easton, Jacksons Gap, Reeltown, and Union. The plant also supplied Coca-Cola to the construction site of the Thomas Wesley Martin Dam, built southwest of Dadeville between 1923 and 1926. Thirsty workers sometimes drank more than 300 cases of Coca-Cola a day.

In the 1930s, a businessman from Columbus, Georgia, purchased the Dadeville and nearby Alexander City Coca-Cola franchises. The Dadeville plant closed soon thereafter.

[Corner of West and Green street, Dadeville]

SARDIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thirteen original members met beneath a brush arbor and organized the church in 1837. The first sanctuary was a simple, log structure. The present sanctuary was constructed in 1857. During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers camped on the church grounds as they passed through the region. For much of its history, circuit-riding Methodist ministers held services in the church once each month. Regular weekly services were begun in 1980.

In the early twentieth century, Sardis was seen as a model for establishing Sunday School programs in rural communities. Member Minnie Allgood, a graduate of Tuskegee Female College, served as a field secretary for the Alabama Sunday School Association and traveled the area encouraging other churches to establish programs. The church added a series of classrooms in the 1940s to accommodate the growth of its Sunday School.

The cemetery behind the church dates back to 1840. It is enclosed by a beautiful brick and wrought-iron fence adapted from a cemetery in Williamsburg, Virginia.

"So teach us to number our days so that we can apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalms 90:12

[10367 Alabama Highway 50, Dadeville]

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

In August 1814, following Gen. Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the Creek Nation ceded its land in central and south Alabama to the U.S. Government. On March 24, 1832, the Creek Nation signed the Treaty of Cusseta, yielding the remainder of their lands in east Alabama to white settlers. Tallapoosa County, named for the river that bisects it, was created on December 18, 1832, from portions of this land. The area had long been on the southern route around the Appalachians, serving Indians as the Okfuskee Trail or Upper Creek Path, and prompting the English to establish trading stations at the sites of Flint Hill, Young's Ferry, Kowaliga, and Okfuskee. The final removal of the Creeks in the mid-1830s "trail of tears" brought in a new flood tide of Americans. The textile industry began at Tallassee Falls in the 1840s, and gold mining caused a boom around Goldville and New Site in the same era. The largely agricultural society began to change in the early twentieth century, with cotton mills in Alexander City and Dadeville; the completion of Martin Dam in 1926 and the formation of Lake Martin with 750 miles of recreational shoreline; and the continual reforestation program which began in the 1930s.

[125 N. Broadnax Street]

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SAVE THE DATE!

THE AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE

will be held in Camden, Alabama on October 27, 2018.



Wilcox County Courthouse, Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 2 • FALL 2018



JOIN US FOR THE FALL PILGRIMAGE TO CAMDEN
OCTOBER 27, 2018

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Cover Image:
Wilcox County Courthouse,
June 10, 2018.
Courtesy of Daniel Fate Brooks.

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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.



PHOTO CREDIT: ROBIN MCDONALD

Valerie Pope Burnes

As Alabama looks toward its bicentennial in 2019, your Alabama Historical Association is looking forward to joining our members in celebration and reflection on our state's vast and varied history. In 2018, the AHA invites you to learn more about the events of 1818 through a trip to Camden and Wilcox County on Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27. A quintessential Black Belt town, with beautiful homes and churches, a picturesque downtown with the Wilcox County Courthouse and Black Belt Treasures, and a Civil Rights history tied to the Movement in Selma and influenced by Gee's Bend, Camden's story follows the cotton boom prior to the Civil War, and the fall of cotton after the 1960s. Today, Wilcox County seeks to tell its story by reflecting on various aspects of its history, while encouraging visitors to do the same.

But what is the Wilcox County connection to the territorial period and statehood? One man: Charles Tait. Born in Hanover, Virginia, in 1768, Tait later moved to Georgia, where he was elected to finish the U.S. Senate term of John Milledge in 1809. After he was re-elected in 1813, Tait, influenced by several friends and former colleagues in Georgia who had moved to Huntsville, as well as his neighbor and fellow U.S. Senator William Wyatt Bibb, put forth legislation to have Alabama separated from Mississippi to form a new state. Tait was thwarted in his first attempt to have Alabama created, when several senators, including Bibb, were forced out of office because they voted to double their pay.

Tait was successful in his second attempt to carve Alabama from the Mississippi Territory. Not only did Tait shepherd through the legislation to create Alabama, he also ensured that Alabama, and thus Mississippi, mirrored Georgia in a north-south alignment, rather than Tennessee, with a horizontal alignment. In 1820, Tait moved to the Wilcox-Monroe County line, to manage 4,000 acres, as well as 115 people who were enslaved to his land. There Tait lived the rest of his life, studying the fossils of the Claiborne beds. Tait died at his son's home, Dry Fork, in 1835, and is buried there, on land still owned by Tait descendants. Though we won't be taking the drive out to Dry Fork, the Alabama Department of Archives and History will bring Tait to you via an exhibit at the Wilcox Female Institute. And when I say that the ADAH is bringing Tait to you, they are giving you the opportunity to see more of just about any deceased person in Alabama than you will ever see again, because Charles Tait's wooden leg will be part of the exhibit.

So join us on October 26-27 to see one of my favorite towns in Alabama, and learn about the man who is largely responsible for the shape of Alabama as we see it today.

Valerie Pope Burnes

Valerie Pope Burnes, President

CAMDEN: VESTIGE OF CONTRASTS

By Daniel Fate Brooks

A lone dove perches on a wire, sounding a mournful coo in the Black Belt summer. The traffic light in front of the old Matthews Hardware building turns green as a sunburned family cruises down the abandoned street in front of endless displays of budget furniture. Time passes, marked only by the bank's digital clock.



Wilcox County Courthouse c. 1890, private collection

If you have lived in Camden, or driven through town after spending a few days on the coast, you have witnessed the broken dignity of Wilcox County's Courthouse Square. But it is not until one is alone, studying the townscape and soaking in the humidity of a June Sunday, that he sees this place, not as a another small town squinting to the future, but as a mixture of contradictions mirroring a colorful and conflicted history.

The Courthouse Square, the irregular heartbeat of Alabama's poorest county, is packed with souls from the past. It has seen murder, slave auctions, land sales, political rallies, enemy invasion, the anger of protests, the celebration of heroes, the conflict of racial demonstrations, the notoriety of officials, the excitement of election nights, the drastic change in authority. To reflect under the pecan trees is to step on the crowded scene of local history.

In the late afternoon, the elements of the square appear simple and silent: the antebellum red brick courthouse with its Italianate brackets, cast iron stairs and towering Doric columns, flanked by more recent brick veneer and nondescript storefronts; the Greek revival and Victorian law offices of Benjamin Meek Miller, Governor of Alabama (1931-1935), and General Richard Channing Jones, President of the University of Alabama, (1890-1897); and the 1840s "double brick" law building, now home to both a florist and a lunch spot. On the corner, opposite the old hardware building, is the square's newest addition: a small park, dedicated to the memory of American Veterans, and dotted with crepe myrtles the color of watermelon.

The overall character of Camden foretells the charm of an earlier time. Broad and narrow streets display nineteenth-century architecture struggling to withstand the heavy hand of economic challenge, as well as a heavier hand of depression, frequently gloved in complacency. Asked about their interest in preservation, some white property owners quickly reference concerns prompted by a lack of zoning and overwhelming demographics.

In contrast, one block south of the Courthouse, a local bank has preserved two Creole cottages. The houses, occupied by Jewish merchants in the 1840s, stand on lots once planted with tiger lilies, jasmine and larkspur. Several older Camden residents remember poignant scenes of the structures at dusk. They recall light flickering through dark green blinds, as snowy-haired occupants grappled to shut out social change in the mid-twentieth century.

Thumbing the pages of early history, one finds that Camden, unlike many of its Alabama counterparts, was planned and built for a single purpose — to provide a center for county government. In 1832 the area had only a few pioneers when Thomas Dunn and his wife, Martha Hobbs, gave land for a new county seat. At the time no settlement had taken root on a site which was removed from the river and had none of the features of Canton or Prairie Bluff. The spot, however, was rich with springs and delivered the perfect place for its designated existence. In rapid order, the village, first called Wilcox Courthouse, was christened Barboursville by an influx of Virginians,



Governor Benjamin Meek Miller, 1931, private collection



Courthouse Square scene c. 1890, private collection

wishing to honor Philip Pendleton Barbour, tenth Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

The town's population swelled and matured in the late 1830s, and with that maturity, came a new clustering that produced a "Little South Carolina." A tremendous inflow of settlers from the Palmetto State, including small farmers and craftsmen, who owned few or no slaves, along with a younger generation of slaveholding aristocrats from the coastal and upcountry regions, helped Wilcox Countians give rise to an imperfect plantation mecca.

Among these newcomers was Dr. John Daniel Caldwell, a cousin of the eminent John Caldwell Calhoun. In 1841, Dr. Caldwell, a physician and a politician, proposed the idea for renaming Barboursville for Camden, South Carolina. His suggestion was overwhelmingly approved by his fellow South Carolinians, as well as by North Carolinians, Georgians and even the Virginians who admired the political convictions of the doctor's brilliant and passionate relative. In due time, a wide thoroughfare, renamed Clifton Street in the late nineteenth century, was given Calhoun's name. Camden was proud to be the county seat of Wilcox County, Alabama, but from a cultural perspective, the place bore a stronger kinship and resemblance to a Carolina town.

Besides the inhabitants from the South Atlantic seaboard, other immigrants came as well: English, Scotch, Irish, German, Italian, French, to say nothing of educated and some affluent "Yankees." From the late 1830s to the outbreak of the Civil War, hundreds of enslaved Africans were also delivered by traders from Mobile and Montgomery. In 1860 the black population of Wilcox County was 17,797 to a white populace of 6,795. The census listed just over 800 slaves as "mulatto" and recorded 26 "free colored." This polyglot blend of cultures gave Camden a complicated, cultivated, and stunning identity. A passage from a yellowed and brittle diary describes town scenes in the summer of 1857: "Every evening the streets are lined with an elaborate array of carriages and handsome turnouts, that show in a small way the style in which people live here. Every carriage seems to have a fine team & its driver & footman. Not only does (sic) wealth & aristocracy hold sway, but intellect & merit draw homage from all."

King Cotton's success produced and multiplied patrician wealth, which in turn, heightened taste and refinement. The economic ritual of the golden years was legendary. After each successful crop, a steady stream of side wheelers tied up at nearby Bridgeport Landing to unload every luxury from Paris porcelain and coin silver, to leatherbound books, musical instruments and the finest mahogany furniture from Mobile and beyond. Flush times funded construction providing skilled artisans with fruitful employment. Among those craftsmen were John Kern, the English plasterer, and Spencer, "his youthful mulatto slave." The talented young man is credited with embellishing plantation manors as well as the "suburban villas" of Camden's cotton nabobs.

Papers and diaries of the town's educated citizenry mention the lives and work of the varied populace and reveal a sound understanding of craftsmanship, building



St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1936, Historic American Buildings Survey



Grave monuments of Martha Jefferson Tait Beck and her husband Col. Franklin King Beck CSA. Camden Cemetery. Courtesy of the author

design, function and history. This is particularly true for the houses first occupied by Governor Arthur Pendleton Bagby and David Sterrett, in addition to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and the Wilcox Female Institute. The stories of these four structures intertwine, uncovering a striking dimension to the social and moral consciences of several Camdenians in the 1850s.

By the fall of 1862, Wilcox County had begun to experience the sadness and hardship of the Civil War. While some brave soldiers returned home, others, like Col. Franklin King Beck, were killed on distant battlefields. Beck, a lawyer and a planter, was the nephew of Vice President William Rufus King and the widower of Judge Charles Tait's granddaughter, Martha Jefferson Tait. Concerned for three young children in his absence, Beck prevailed upon a widowed cousin, Catherine Parrish Ellis, King's official hostess when he was Minister to France, to supervise his home and family. Letters from Mrs. Ellis to her uncle's friend, President James Buchanan, detail the children's trauma from their father's death in 1864, and disclose her bitterness towards black and white Union troops invading Camden in the last days of war.

Catherine Ellis, like other local citizens, found Yankee invasion and Reconstruction to be "Camden's darkest hours." War caused many Wilcox County planters to incur heavy debts, which in turn attracted a new breed of immigrant to the area. Almost immediately, Union veterans returned as "carpetbaggers" to buy plantations along the Alabama River. Even though they were considered "radical Republican invaders," some eventually assimilated, contributing heavily to the Presbyterian Church and marrying into planter families. One of these men was DeForest Richards of New Hampshire. Richards, who prospered in Camden and was elected sheriff of Wilcox County in 1868, eventually moved west and became the fifth Governor of Wyoming.

Tragic times did not end here. Fires in 1869, 1870, and 1916 laid city blocks to waste. Epidemics of scarlet fever and influenza took their toll. But the late nineteenth and early years of the twentieth century also brought new leadership and signs of positive change. In 1891 the Honorable Sol D. Bloch, son of one of Camden's Jewish merchants, became the first member of the Hebrew faith to be elected to the Alabama Senate. Bloch, who supported Camden over Montevallo as the site for the Alabama Girls' Industrial School, was editor of the *Wilcox Progressive Era* and helped plan a major celebration on the Courthouse Square to honor Camden's black World War I draftsmen. The Great War gave Camden a new generation of leaders and heroes from both races with Captain Emmett Kilpatrick, an interpreter at the Versailles Peace Conference, taking an honored place in history.

By the mid 1920s, low cotton prices, coupled with the onslaught of the boll weevil, and the decline of river transportation, sounded the collapse of Camden as a commercial center. Many residents, "too poor to paint and too proud to white wash," became more depressed during the Great Depression. Antebellum architecture, symbols of prosperity and power, slumped into gradual decay. Hard times and a lack of industry smothered hopes for economic renewal. Agriculture and sharecropping continued, perpetuating longstanding traditions and a caste system reminiscent of the Old South.



Captain Emmett Kilpatrick, 1921, private collection

Camden and Wilcox County witnessed very little social change from the 1930s through World War II. Yet as post-war America surged with hope, local leaders like State Senator J. Miller Bonner opposed the impact of change on the cultural morés of Alabama



Bagby-Beck-Horn-Liddell-Burford home c. 1895, private collection



Viola Goode Liddell and her husband, Will Liddell, greet Alabama Historical Association members in October 1980, private collection.

and specifically the Black Belt. The struggle against segregation and the assurance of civil rights was entering the mainstream, altering the town's deep-rooted existence. Change promised a better future for many residents. Others saw it as an end to their idyllic, but tarnished, way of life.

From the late 1940s through the turbulent sixties, Camden experienced a symphony of racial and cultural shock, prompting a wave of published memory and observation. The town and county became the subjects of books including reminiscences, history, humor, and poetry. Sociological studies, exposés, magazine and feature articles, newspaper installments and a photographic chronicle document the uncertain outcome of a town in transition. The works of Viola Goode Liddell, Renwick C. Kennedy, Morton Rubin, Cabell Philips, Charles G. Dobbins, Bob Adelman, Susan Hall, Clinton McCarty, and others have long presented the area as a captivating and compelling storehouse of historical passion and suppression.

Camden's recent history is a painful story of evolution, failed endeavors, and dissension. Voting rights, laws for school integration, and black control of county government have empowered the descendants of slaves. Sadly, however, the capacity to govern the economic future of the town and county seems limited and lacks direction in the twenty-first century.

As years pass people from every corner of Alabama, across America, and around the world are drawn to the microcosm of Camden and Wilcox County. Today many people come to hunt, fish, or ride through town looking at vestiges of grandeur. Others, blind to antebellum icons, continue to focus on the extended and complicated mission for more equal opportunity. Recently, however, all eyes watch and scrutinize the leadership and actions of two former residents serving as officials on the state and national stage. In the interim, time passes. Camden struggles, waiting for the future, while the Courthouse Square stands silent.

Daniel Fate Brooks is a former member of the Alabama Historical Association. He served as president in 2001-2002.



Looking toward river lands from a rise near Camden, June 2018. Courtesy of the author

FRIDAY PRE-MEETING TOUR OF FURMAN, ALABAMA



BETHSAIDA BAPTIST CHURCH

Bethsaida Baptist Church was founded in 1831 at a site very close to its present location. Elder Hawthorn was the first pastor. The present building was constructed between 1858 and 1860. It reached its peak membership in the late 19th century at nearly 150 members. The building is still used every Sunday and retains many of its original features.

Ms. Sarah Duggan, Director of the Classical Institute of the South, will present a visual overview of the furniture, porcelain, and silver documented by the Institute last summer during their two-week stay in Wilcox County. Participants will see some of the objects documented in the Palmer-Britt Home during the tour and others during the tour of Camden on Saturday.

PERDUE-ESTES-SUGGS HOME – "DEERFIELD"

A lumber entrepreneur named Perdue built this home around 1895. The home is a two-story frame end gabled central passage house, two piles in depth, featuring a two-tiered wrap around porch on all four sides. The current owners, Paul and Rebecca Suggs, have spent the last seven months restoring the home. This is the first opportunity the public has had to see the home post-restoration.



FURMAN METHODIST CHURCH

The original church building was constructed in 1857 on the present parcel of land donated by Mrs. Sarah Patton McCondichie.



The current building was finished in 1882 and served the Furman area until it ceased to be an active church in 1998. As part of the tour of the church, participants will view a period clothing display of garments from the late 18th and early 19th century as well as some reproduction garments using period construction techniques.





MOORE-BURSON-RUSHING HOME

This 1 ½ story gabled central passage house of the coastal cottage type was built by Leonard Moore in 1885. Dr. and Mrs. Elkanah G. Burson lived in the home until they purchased "Wakefield" in 1943. The home has remained in the Burson family, and current owners Tom and Sylvia Rushing have completed a full restoration.

WAKEFIELD

This beautiful antebellum home, located in the Furman community, was built in a one-of-a-kind Steamboat Gothic style. The nearly 6,000 sq. ft. of living area consists of 12 rooms and 12 fireplaces, and unique porches on all sides. It was named "Wakefield" by the Gulley family, who owned the home from its construction in the 1840s until it was sold to Dr. E.G. Burson in 1943. The home is now owned by Sylvia Burson Rushing, granddaughter of Dr. Elkanah G. Burson, and her husband Tom Rushing. They are only the fourth family to own this home.



PALMER – BRITT HOME

This "coastal cottage," built in 1833 by Stephen and Juliet Palmer and modified by Dabney Palmer around 1860, is likely the first wood-framed home built in the area. The house is a classic 1 ½ story "Carolina" cottage featuring a central passage with rooms to each side, including a unique prayer room with gothic arched windows and hand-gouged mantle brought with the Palmer Family from Virginia. The front porch is an integral recessed porch constructed on brick bases connected directly to the earth in the Carolina Porch Style. One of the two large bedrooms upstairs features original, unpainted heart pine walls, floor, and ceiling. Mitchell and Jennifer Britt acquired the home in 1992 and spent the next 20 years restoring and preserving the home.

The Britt Family is hosting a full reception following the tour of their home for all participants.

Attendees may choose to dine that evening at GainesRidge Dinner Club in Camden (933 Highway 10 East) at 6:00 p.m.

You will find a place on the pilgrimage reservation form to indicate your participation for dinner.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018

9:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, *Book Sales**
Dale Lodge No. 25
202 Clifton Street
**Book sales will end for the day at 1:00 p.m.*

10:30 a.m. **Program and address by**
Daniel Fate Brooks
Camden United Methodist Church
127 Broad Street

11:30 a.m. **Lunch**
Camden United Methodist Church

12:30 p.m. **Tours of Camden Homes and Sites**

- Jones-McIntosh-Hicks
- Bagby-Beck-Horn-Liddell-Burford
- Wilcox Female Institute, including an exhibit honoring Charles Tait, first federal district judge of Alabama
- Thompson-Spurlin-Matthews-Curry
- Old St. Mary's Church-Hamilton
- Sterrett-McWilliams
- Shoe Shop Museum
- Black Belt Treasures

5:00 p.m. **Tours End**

DANIEL FATE BROOKS, a Camden native and a seventh generation Wilcox Countian, is a former member of the Alabama Historical Association. He served as president in 2001-2002 and was the speaker when the Association visited Camden for the fall meeting in 1980. Brooks is the author of published articles on William Rufus King, Black Belt history and an unpublished work on antebellum Wilcox County. He was director of Birmingham's Arlington Historic House for over twenty-five years, retiring in 2010. He is the director of the Natchez Antiques Forum, and is celebrating thirty-two years as a regular adjunct instructor at Samford University.



JONES-MCINTOSH-HICKS, c. 1869

On April 2, 1869 Richard Channing Jones, a twenty-nine-year-old Virginia native, purchased two-and-a-half acres with existing outbuildings on the Canton Road (Broad Street) as a site to build his Greek revival cottage. He was the son of John Cargill Jones, a minister of the Camden Baptist Church, a graduate of the University of Alabama, a lawyer and a newspaper editor. Jones, however, is best remembered for his service as Brigadier General in the State Militia (1876-1890) and as President of the University of Alabama (1890-1897). During General Jones' presidency, football began, the crimson and white colors were adopted and female students enrolled at the University. The house was also the home of Dr. and Mrs. E.L. McIntosh and their son, E.L. McIntosh Jr. Lucy Hicks, the current owner, purchased the historic house in 2008.

BAGBY-BECK-HORN-LIDDELL-BURFORD c. 1851

Arthur Pendleton Bagby, tenth Governor of Alabama (1837-1841), US Senator (1841-1847), and Minister to Russia (1848-1849), moved to Camden in 1853. Prior to his arrival, Bagby contracted with Henry F. Cook, a New Englander living in Camden, to build a home "befitting a man of his position." The parties agreed on a price of $3,750 to be paid in three installments. Unfortunately, Bagby could not make the payments and the property was sold at auction to Thomas King Beck, brother of Franklin King Beck and nephew of Vice President William Rufus King. The house was eventually sold to the ill-fated lawyer, Peter Horn, and then to John R. Liddell Sr. of Ohio. For many years it was the home of Will and Viola Goode Liddell, a celebrated Alabama author. In 1998 the house was purchased by Mr.



and Mrs. Peyton Daniel Burford III. Coincidentally, Mr. Burford is a direct descendant of Harry Toulmin, territorial judge of the Mississippi and Alabama Territories.



WILCOX FEMALE INSTITUTE, 1849

Long considered the "pride of Wilcox County," the Wilcox Female Institute was erected in 1849 and chartered as an academy for young women in 1850. During the late antebellum period, the school was deemed one of the most successful female academies in Alabama. In 1908 the building was deeded to the State and used as a public school into the late 1960s. The structure, made of handmade brick, features modified Doric columns, a balcony, and a two- tiered cupola and pilastered belfry. The threat of demolition led to the formation of the Wilcox Historical Society in the 1970. In 1974 the building was deeded to the Society, which maintains its preservation.

CAMDEN ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1849

This simple frame building is one of two antebellum church structures remaining in Camden. Erected for a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the building was purchased in 1890 by the ARP congregation which have renovated and made several additions. Alabama Governor Benjamin Meek Miller worshipped here.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1885

Organized in 1845, the First Presbyterian Church, with its open shingle belfry with "stick style" trim and bracketed cornice, was built to replace an earlier building destroyed by fire in 1869. Originally the interior walls were decorated with trompe l'oeil (a simulated Gothic apse behind the pulpit, painted pilasters and medallions). Captain Emmett Kilpatrick worshipped here.





DALE LODGE NO. 25, 1848

Dale Lodge, founded in Prairie Bluff in 1827, was originally named Lafayette Lodge to commemorate the general's famed United States tour in 1825-26. According to tradition, the Frenchman's boat was running behind schedule and a stop in Wilcox County had to be omitted. As time passed, some of the Masons recalled the incident and proposed the idea of renaming the lodge for the Indian fighter, Sam Dale. The order eventually moved to Camden and built the impressive Greek Revival temple style structure in 1848. George Lynch and William T. Mathews, local builders, are credited with the design and construction. The first floor of Dale Lodge has been the scene of many historic and cultural events, including concerts, plays and the long-remembered Secession Ball in May of 1861.



CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1917

Methodists had a stronghold in Wilcox County when the Camden Church was organized in 1844. A deed dated August 21, 1844 records that the lot was sold to the church trustees for one hundred dollars. The first building, a frame structure, was soon erected and was used until 1917 when it was raised to make way for the present brick structure.

THOMPSON-SPURLIN-MATTHEWS-CURRY, C. 1840

In the early 1840s, the county seat underwent a name change from Barboursville to Camden. During this time, Benjamin Thompson, a local dentist, purchased a lot at the corner of Union and Calhoun Streets and built a large house with a one story portico. In 1867, the house was bought by William F. Spurlin, a local jeweler who added a full one story shed porch with Victorian cutwork detail. Spurlin retained ownership until 1911 when the home was sold to Barnett Houser Matthews, owner of Matthews Hardware Company. Mr. Matthews enlarged and remodeled the structure, adding the large columned pedimented porch and suspended balcony. The house has remained in the Matthews family for four generations and is the home of Will and Sommer Curry who have made extensive renovations. Mr. Curry is a direct descendant of Dr. John D. Caldwell who named Camden.





OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH – HAMILTON, 1856

The Episcopal Church came to Wilcox County with the emigration of Tidewater Virginians and the Piedmont and Lowcountry settlers of the Carolinas. In 1855, residents including the Becks, Boykins, Dortchs and others held their first services and executed plans for a parish under the name of St. Mary's. The building was constructed the following year and dedicated March 5, 1857. St. Mary's struggled with a lack of communicants during the Civil War and into the twentieth century. With the death of Mrs. Charlotte Vass Tait Beck in 1939, the diocese planned deconsecration. The building was soon sold to Mrs. Frank Moore who converted it to a residence. In 2017, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Hamilton of Mobile purchased the home from a subsequent owner. The Hamiltons have made a substantial and very interpretive restoration.



STERRETT-MCWILLIAMS, 1851

Inspired by various pattern books, this outstanding example of antebellum eclecticism was built in 1851 for Judge David W. Sterrett, lawyer, planter and trustee of the Wilcox Female Institute, and his wife Susan McConnico. The veranda features four tall trellis like supports, scroll cut balustrades and an unusual parapet. Inside, a central foyer contains twin spiral cantilevered stairways, red glass sidelights and transom, and double parlors with heavy decorative plasterwork. In 1870, Sterrett' s daughter, Sally Brooks Sterrett Tate, sold the house to Richard Ervin McWilliams, a Confederate soldier in the Wilcox True Blues. It is owned by his great granddaughters, Lindsay Cook and Garland Smith, and Garland's husband, Lathrop Smith.



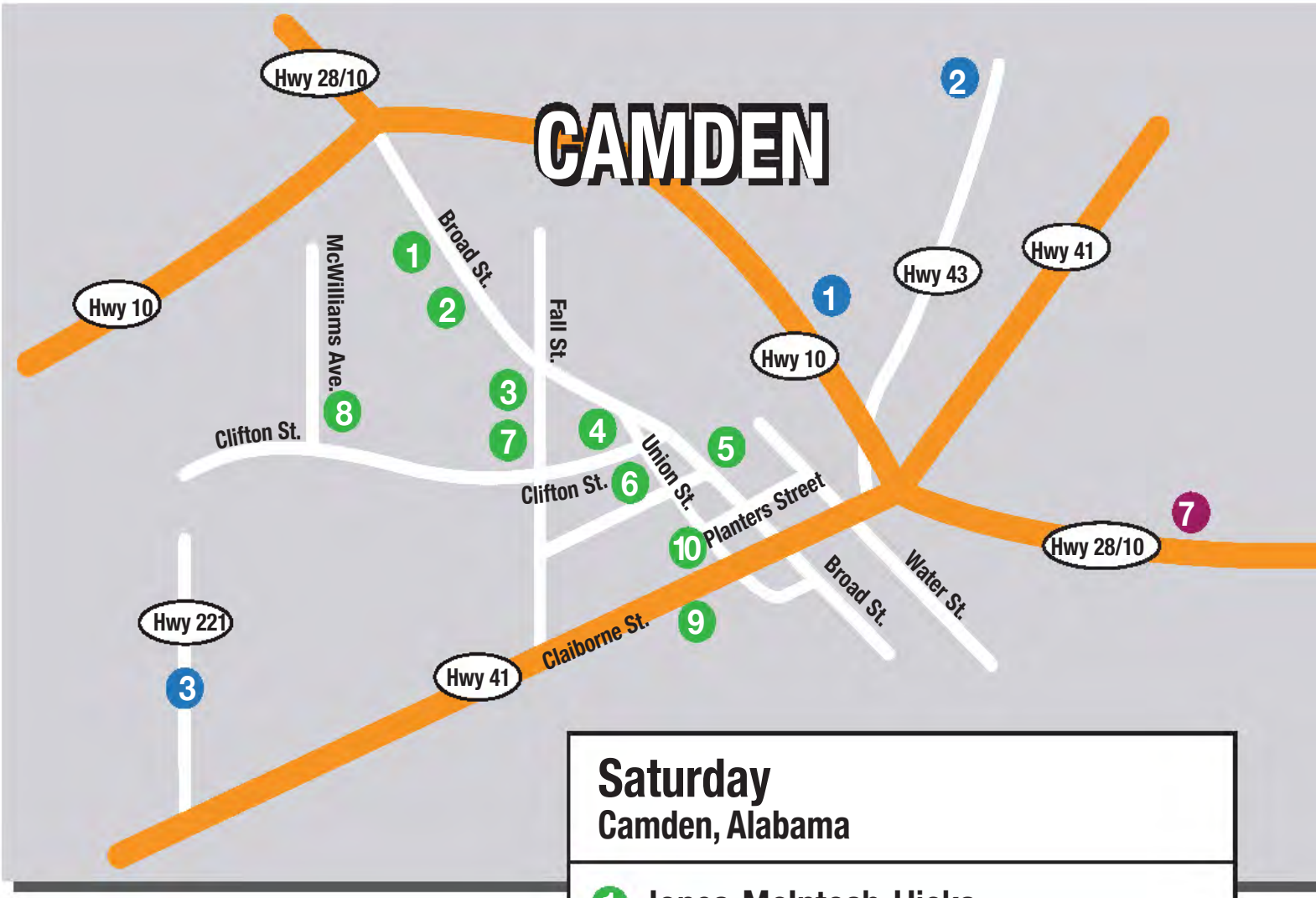
SHOE SHOP MUSEUM

Joe Anderson owned and operated the Shoe Shop in Camden for over forty years, and his daughter Betty has preserved the shop's contents and memorabilia as a showplace for the shoe repair trade and the town. Reporter Alvin Benn states, "This rural cobbler shop is a tribute to bucolic life, necessity, community and activism." Ms. Anderson will be present at the tour to describe artifacts, as well as recount childhood stories of life from the perspective of the town and county's shoe repair shop. Photo courtesy of Laura Agee.



BLACK BELT TREASURES CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center is a non profit 501 (c) (3) organization with the objective to stimulate the region's economy through the sale of fine arts and heritage crafts. The organization also provides arts education opportunities. Black Belt Treasures was developed as an outgrowth of a tourism initiative launched by the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission, Ala-Tom RC & D, and the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development.



Friday Pre-Meeting Tour
Furman, Alabama

1. **Bethsaida Baptist Church**
 Tour begins at 1:30pm
2. **Perdue-Estes-Suggs Home**
 "Deerfield"
3. **Furman Methodist Church**
4. **Wakefield**
5. **Moore-Burson-Rushing Home**
6. **Palmer-Britt Home**
 Reception Location
7. **Gaines Ridge Dinner Club**
 Optional dinner at 6pm

Saturday
Camden, Alabama

1. **Jones-McIntosh-Hicks**
 407 Broad St.
2. **Bagby-Beck-Horn-Liddell-Burford**
 403 Broad St.
3. **Wilcox Female Institute**
 301 Broad St.
4. **Dale Lodge**
 202 Clifton St.
5. **Camden United Methodist Church**
 127 Broad St.
6. **Thompson-Spurlin-Matthews-Curry**
 203 Clifton St.
7. **Old St. Mary's Church-Hamilton**
 302 Clifton St.
8. **Sterrett-McWilliams**
 400 Clifton St.
9. **Black Belt Treasures**
 209 Claiborne St.
10. **Shoe Shop Museum**
 222 Planters Street

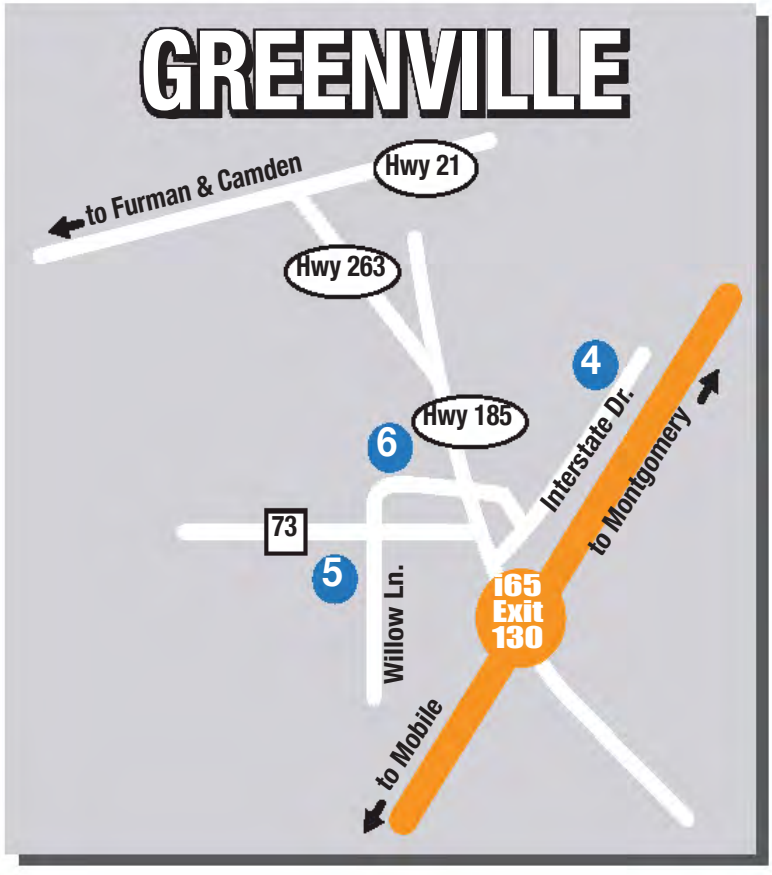
Be on the lookout for the red and white AHA signs!



Scan this QR code for access to the Google Map:

Accommodation Options
Camden & Greenville, Alabama

1. **Southern Inn**
 40 Camden Bypass, Camden, AL 36726
 (334) 682-4148
2. **Roland Cooper State Park**
 285 Deer Run Dr, Camden, AL 36726
 (334) 682-4838 or (423) 557-9401
3. **Liberty Hall Bed & Breakfast**
 627 AL-221, Camden, AL 36726
 (334) 412-3513
4. **Hampton Inn - Greenville**
 219 Interstate Dr, Greenville, AL 36037
 (334) 382-9631
5. **Holiday Inn Express - Greenville**
 100 Paul Stabler Dr, Greenville, AL 36037
 (334) 382-2444
6. **Comfort Inn - Greenville**
 1029 Fort Dale Rd, Greenville, AL 36037
 (334) 383-9595



Congratulations to the following award winners!



PHOTOS COURTESY ELVIN LANG

CLINTON JACKSON COLEY BOOK AWARD

The winner of the 2018 Clinton Jackson Coley Book Award for best work on Alabama local history is *Southside: Eufaula's Cotton Mill Village and Its People, 1890-1945* by David Alsobrook.

MILO B. HOWARD JR. AWARD

The Milo B. Howard Award recognizes the best article published in *The Alabama Review* for a two-year period. Dr. Kari Frederickson received the award for her April 2016 and October 2016 articles "Manhood and Politics: The Bankhead-Hobson Campaigns of 1904 and 1906" and "Brand New District, Same Old Fight: The Bankhead-Hobson Campaign of 1916."





PHOTOS COURTESY ELVIN LANG

JAMES RAY KUYKENDALL AWARD

The Leeds Historical Society is the winner of the 2018 James Ray Kuykendall Award honoring an exceptional local historical society.





DIGITAL HISTORY AWARD

The Digital History Award recognizes excellence for large and small digital history projects that make contributions to promulgating Alabama (state or local) history. The winners of the 2018 award are *Alabama Heritage* (large project) and Huntsville History Collection (small project). Visit www.alabamaheritage.com and www.huntsvillehistorycollection.org to learn more about these award-winning projects.

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Call for Papers

72nd Annual Meeting
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
April 25-27, 2019

The Alabama Historical Association invites paper proposals to be given at its 72nd Annual Meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on April 25-27, 2019. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama. To commemorate Alabama's Bicentennial and highlight the many buildings and places that convey the state's rich history, the AHA will hold the meeting in cooperation with the **Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation**, and members of the preservation community are encouraged to submit paper proposals as well.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a **20-minute presentation** on an Alabama history or preservation topic and a curriculum vitae or résumé that includes the author's email address, postal address, telephone number, and academic or organizational affiliation (if any). Proposals should also indicate if the presenter will require any technical equipment (projectors, sound equipment, etc.)

Proposals must be submitted by October 15, 2018. Electronic submissions are preferred.

All presenters are required to register for the conference and be members in good standing of the Alabama Historical Association or Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation by the time of the annual meeting. The committee gives preference to presenters who have not given papers at an annual meeting within the past three years.

Please submit your proposal to the program chair:

Dr. Christine Sears
Associate Professor
History Department
University of Alabama in Huntsville
christine.sears@uah.edu
256-824-2573

For more information on the Alabama Historical Association, visit www.alabamahistory.net

2019 NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2019 AWARDS

The following awards will be presented at the annual meeting on April 26, 2019.

- The **James F. Sulzby Book Award** recognizes excellence in a book published in the previous two years that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history. Books published between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018 are eligible. For submission information, contact Dr. Dan Puckett at dpuckett45442@troy.edu.

- The **Clinton Jackson and Evelyn Coley Research Grant** provides $500 to a graduate student conducting research on an Alabama-related topic. As part of the AHA's commemoration of the state's bicentennial, the AHA will grant a Coley Research Award to one graduate student in each Alabama university offering graduate degrees in relevant fields of study. Applications are due **by January 31, 2019.** For more information, visit www.alabamahistory.net or contact Staci Glover at stacisglover@bellsouth.net.

- The **Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award** honors contributions to Alabama history that promote appreciation and better understanding of Alabama history among the general public. Nomination packets should include a letter of nomination (not to exceed two pages) that outlines the nominee's accomplishments; supporting materials and documentation of accomplishments; letters of support (not to exceed five). Please submit nominations by **January 15, 2019** to Laura Anderson at landerson@alabamahumanities.org.

- The **AHA Museum Award** recognizes excellence in large and small historical museums that make contributions to promulgating Alabama (state or local) history. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome. For more information on the nomination process, contact Dr. David Alsobrook at dealsobrook@yahoo.com. Deadline for nominations is **December 31, 2018**.

For more information on all of these awards, visit www.alabamahistory.net.

The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

PATRONS ($500 LEVEL)

Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins, Birmingham

Thomas N. Carruthers, Birmingham

Jacob Lowery, Greenville, SC

Larry Ward, Birmingham

SPONSORS ($250 LEVEL)

Joe Dennis, Bessemer

John and Anne Feathers, Greenville

Norman W. Gayle III, South Amboy, NJ

Stallworth Larson, Ocean Ridge, FL

Most Rev. Oscar H. Lipscomb, Mobile

William D. Melton, Evergreen

Steve and Laura Murray, Auburn

Dr. Ann B. Pearson, Auburn

B. Hanson Slaughter, Birmingham

George H. Smith, Birmingham

Carroll C. Strickland, Huntsville

Scott and Cameron Vowell, Birmingham

Louise A. Wrinkle, Birmingham

Alan K. Zeigler, Birmingham

SUSTAINERS ($100 LEVEL)

Joe E. Basenberg, Mobile

Raymond L. Beck and Deborah Hatton, Franklin, TN

Dr. Kathryn H. Braund, Dadeville

Dr. Edwin C. Bridges, Montgomery

Jane H. Brock, Homewood

Thomas Bryant, Birmingham

Camille Butrus, Birmingham

Edgar E. Campbell, Pinson

Dr. and Mrs. J. Donald Carmichael, Birmingham

Mrs. Charles T. Clayton, Jr., Birmingham

Wynne and Dianne Coleman, Greensboro

Brian Conary, Jacksonville

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Cox, Grove Hill

Dr. Ralph Draughon, Jr., Auburn

Julian Walker Epps, Headland

Martin and Helon Everse, Vestavia

Mr. and Mrs. Alston Fitts III, Selma

W. Warner Floyd, Montgomery

James E. and Hazel Foshee, Hunstville

Rosa Hall, Tuscaloosa

P. Richard Hartley, Greenville

T.R. Henderson, Headland

Bert Hitchcock, Auburn

Arthur F. Howington, Tuscaloosa

Robert L. Hunt, Birmingham

Mallie M. Ireland, Mountain Brook

Dr. and Mrs. Jerry W. Jackson, Mountain Brook

Pamela Sterne King, Birmingham

Dr. John Kvach, Brownsboro

Ethelwyn Haley Dobbs Langston, Winfield

Forrest Latta, Mobile

Jim and Ola Ann Lee, Huntsville

Daniel and Kathryn Lee, Bakersfield, CA

Will and Ruth H. Liddell, Jr., Montgomery

Frank Alex Luttrell, Madison

Christopher Maloney, Auburn

Dr. and Mrs. David Mathews, Dayton, OH

Marvin E. and Lenda McCain, Lynn Haven, FL

Tom McMillan, Brewton

Mr. and Mrs. Julian McPhillips, Jr., Montgomery

Guy Milford and Sandra Braman, College Station, TX

Sally Moore, Clanton

James Stanley Moss, Pinson

Gary Mullen, Auburn

Mary Norman, Auburn

James P. Pate, Tupelo, MS

Emily Pendleton, Montevallo

Mrs. William A. Powell, Birmingham

George C. and Kay Rable, Tuscaloosa

Dr. John Reese, Montgomery

Shirrell Roberts, Montgomery

Charles B. Rodning, Semmes

Nancy Rohr, Huntsville

Ted C. and Shirley K. Spears, Sylacauga

Jean Till Styles, Minter

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Sulzby III, Birmingham

Gayle G. Thomas, Abbeville

J. Mills Thornton, Montgomery

Brent Tolbert-Smith, Catonsville, MD

Joseph D. Weatherford, Montgomery

Edgar Welden, Birmingham

A.S. Williams, III, Birmingham

Jason Williams, Valley

Lex and Mary Williamson, Birmingham

Frank Wilson, Montgomery

Mark and Kellie Wilson, Auburn

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72ND ANNUAL MEETING

April 25-27, 2019 | Tuscaloosa, Alabama

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ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2019



72ND ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 25-27, 2019 | TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

200 ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL
ALABAMA Trust for Historic PRESERVATION
Historic Places Make Life Better
ahc ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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Cover Photo:
Capitol Ruins, courtesy of Rebecca Minder.

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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.



Valerie Pope Burnes

Happy birthday, Alabama! The Alabama Historical Association is excited to celebrate our state's Bicentennial by hosting our 2019 annual meeting in Tuscaloosa, the home of Alabama's second capital. As always, we have a wonderful slate of papers and tour sites lined up. Many of the sites we visit during our pilgrimages and annual meetings still exist because of the work of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, along with their partners, the Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council. To highlight the work the ATHP, AHC, and BHC do to preserve important sites throughout the state, as well as bring attention to the historical research conducted by members of the Alabama Historical Association which is necessary for the Trust and its partners to document and advocate for historically significant places, the AHA is partnering with these groups to create an extended conference for you this year. The Trust will begin their sessions on Thursday, April 25, and they invite AHA members to attend their sessions, which are outlined in this newsletter. Our groups will have a joint get-together on Thursday evening at the historic Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion, and Trust members will join AHA folks on Friday for our morning sessions and afternoon tours. We will finish our joint festivities on Friday evening with our awards banquet, where our speaker will be the talented and entertaining Bobby Horton. The AHA and ATHP will present annual awards at Friday's banquet, so members of both organizations can gain a better understanding of the focus of each group. As always, the Alabama Historical Association will cap off our meeting with Saturday morning sessions, lunch, and the president's message.

The AHA is thankful to its members in Tuscaloosa who have put together a fantastic meeting, and brought together diverse groups and their sites, to offer our organization a true picture of the history of Tuscaloosa and its place in Alabama's story. Rebecca Todd Minder deserves extra recognition for pulling together these varied groups to give attendees a multi-layered glimpse into the area's past. For those who attended our last annual meeting in Tuscaloosa almost a decade ago, we will revisit the Drish House, which was under restoration on our last visit. It is now fully restored and is a great example of the work made possible through historic preservation tax credits. You will also have a chance to visit the ruins at Capitol Park, the site of our second capital building, as well as a new building – the Federal Courthouse – where you can admire murals that will become an important place for visitors to Tuscaloosa for years to come.

We look forward to celebrating Alabama's bicentennial in conjunction with Tuscaloosa's bicentennial in 2019. If you have not yet done so, visit Alabama200.org to see the hundreds of ways that Alabamians are celebrating her birthday, and be sure that the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association is a part of your Bicentennial celebration. I look forward to seeing everyone in Tuscaloosa April 25-27!

Valerie Pope Burnes

Dr. Valerie Burnes, President

A Sampling of Tuscaloosa's Historic Architecture

Dr. Robert O. Mellown

The city of Tuscaloosa celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. It was incorporated on December 13, 1819—one day before President Monroe signed the resolution admitting Alabama into the Union as the twenty-second state. Although the settlement had an idyllic location at the fall line of the Black Warrior River, it was no more than a small cluster of log cabins and rustic board shanties. Yet over the next several years, the construction of modest frame houses and brick stores gave the small community a sense of permanence and order; and then in the mid-1820s, with the building of the state capitol and university, Tuscaloosa began to be recognized for its architectural distinction. The buildings illustrated here provide a sampling of Tuscaloosa's most significant landmarks over the past two centuries.

The Alabama Capitol and University of Alabama campus were among the most innovative and handsome structures of their type built in the young republic. Alabama's state architect, William Nichols, who had earlier served in that capacity for North Carolina, was inspired by the national capitol in Washington, DC, as well as by his earlier designs used in remodeling the state house in Raleigh. Nichols later, as state architect of Mississippi, used ideas from these structures in his imposing capitol in Jackson. While working on the Alabama capitol, the architect was commissioned to design and build the University of Alabama campus. His innovative design was based on work he had previously done at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was also strongly influenced by Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia, whose plan was greatly admired by members of the University of Alabama Board of Trustees. Nichols would also employ elements from his Alabama and North Carolina plans to create the University of Mississippi campus at Oxford.



The Alabama Capitol, ca. 1900. Courtesy of The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.

The University of Alabama campus was burned by Federal troops in April 1865. The former Alabama capitol remained until 1923 – it was used as a girls' school—when it, too, was destroyed by fire. These buildings had become such integral components of the history of Tuscaloosa that their sites were not allowed to be forgotten. Today Capitol Park and the Main Quadrangle at the University of Alabama are palimpsests—sites of lost buildings and historic events, repurposed and altered, yet still bearing visible traces of their past.

The original building of the Alabama Insane (Bryce) Hospital, now a part of the University of Alabama campus, is of national architectural significance because of its innovative design. A committee of Alabama physicians traveled to Philadelphia in 1852 to consult with Dr. Thomas Kirkbride, the foremost authority on asylum design. Kirkbride, working with his favorite architect, Samuel Sloan, then created the "Alabama Plan" for the proposed Tuscaloosa building. The doctor published the plan in 1854 in his seminal book on the construction of insane hospitals. By the end of the century, more than 100 asylums across the United States and Canada exhibited architectural features directly traceable to the Alabama Hospital. Based



Engraving of the original Univ. of Ala. campus from LaTourette Map, 1837. Photo courtesy The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.

on a reform movement in mental health therapy known as "moral treatment," the 250-bed hospital reflected progressive ideals concerning the housing and treatment of the mentally ill. Perhaps the most startling was the idea that the building itself was a part of the therapy – literally part of the healing process. So, too, were the landscaped grounds that were thought to have a soothing effect on troubled minds. Patients were housed in a series of wings set back en echelon on either side of a domed central pavilion that housed administrative offices and the residence of Dr. Bryce and his family. The patient wings were segregated by gender with the men on the west and the women on the east, and by the severity of their illnesses: the most severely afflicted patients were housed in the outermost wings where their disruptive behavior and noise would be less likely to disturb other patients. The entire building was illuminated by gas, heated by steam, and cooled and ventilated by steam-powered fans. The wings featured individual rooms for patients, light-filled corridors, and even bathing rooms and water closets. The University of Alabama is currently renovating and repurposing the original Bryce Hospital building (alas, minus its two outermost wings). It will eventually house offices and studios, a university welcome center, and small museums chronicling the history of the University of Alabama and the history of Bryce Hospital and mental health in Alabama.



The Alabama Bryce Insane Hospital, 1909. Courtesy Troy University Library.

John Stewart, Samuel Sloan's business partner and field architect, made many trips to Alabama during the hospital's construction and garnered other commissions. One of them was the contract to build a handsome Italianate villa for Sen. Robert Jemison, Jr., who had been instrumental in locating Bryce Hospital in his hometown of Tuscaloosa and who also became a major contractor in its construction.



Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion.

Not surprisingly the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion reflected the advanced technology then being employed by the Philadelphia architects in the design of the insane hospital. Sen. Jemison's home is now a house museum owned by the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion Foundation. It has been carefully restored to its original 1862 appearance, houses the Tuscaloosa Preservation Society, and is open to the public.

At the end of the Civil War, the University of Alabama faced the daunting task of reconstructing its ruined campus. Rather than attempt to replicate the old buildings on their original foundations, it determined to transform the ruins into grassy mounds (one remains) located in a fenced-in memorial park (now the Main Quadrangle), and to rebuild the university directly behind it. The Board of Trustees solicited plans from a number of architects and determined that New York architect A.J. Davis' Gothic Revival style plans, which he created in the 1840s for Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, could best be adapted to meet the needs of the University of Alabama, which was then operating under a military form of governance. The main building at VMI had been constructed as an enormous hollow square with a parade ground in the center. Lacking sufficient funds to construct the architect's complete design in the immediate post-war period, the university built only the northern portion (Woods Hall) in 1867-68. This structure housed all functions of the university until the early 1880s when funds became available to complete the original plan. William A. Freret, the New Orleans architect selected to undertake the job, kept the basic footprint, but created three separate buildings (Manly, Clark, and Garland Halls PHOTO 6) rather than joining them into one monolithic hollow square. He also changed the style to the currently fashionable High Victorian Gothic. Freret had recently completed rebuilding the Louisiana capitol in Baton Rouge that had been burned during the Civil War. After completing his work in Tuscaloosa, he was appointed supervising architect of the US Treasury and in that capacity designed and built Victorian Gothic and Romanesque Federal buildings from Maine to California.

Two decades later, Freret's successor as Supervising Architect, James Knox Taylor, designed Tuscaloosa's first Federal Court House and Post Office (now City Hall) in 1909. By this time, the Victorian style was out of favor and Taylor, an MIT graduate, employed a variant of the fashionable beaux arts neoclassical style for the new building. It is interesting to note that he made several visual references in his courthouse to the old Alabama Capitol that still stood several blocks away. Taylor's building is notable for its elegance of design, high quality of workmanship, and lavish use of marble and other expensive materials.

The Law Center at the University of Alabama is the only outstanding example of modernism in Tuscaloosa designed by a nationally known architect. The building was one of the last works completed by Edward Durrell Stone before his death in 1978.



Aerial view of Woods Quad, ca 1950. Woods Hall to the rear. In front: left to right, Manly, Clark, and Garland halls. Courtesy of The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.



Clark Hall. Courtesy of The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections.

The works for which he is remembered were designed in a variant of modernism known as the New Formalism. His most significant buildings are the US Embassy in New Delhi, India (1954) and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC (1971). Stone rejected the severity of the International Style and claimed to find inspiration in vernacular American architecture. It is therefore not surprising that Stone's architectural firm recorded that the Law Center's large glass area in the center was reminiscent of the dogtrot in Alabama's pioneer cabins, and that the massive cylindrical forms holding up the enormous flat roof were suggested by the columns on Tuscaloosa's antebellum mansions.

The 2011 Federal Building and Courthouse on University Boulevard is a sophisticated example of Post Modern Classical or Archeological Classicism that is sometimes referred to as Neo Traditionalism. Architects working in this variant of Post Modernism attempt to follow the paradigms of the ancient Greek, Roman, and Renaissance architects as closely as possible. Thomas H. Beeby, of Chicago-based HBRA Architects, used the ancient temple of Zeus at Nemea as his inspiration for the 21st century Tuscaloosa Federal Building. The stunning result proves that the 2,500-year-old classical tradition in architecture is still viable and capable of producing buildings that are both beautiful and functional. Beeby also broke with the modernist tradition by reintroducing the use of mural painting on the interior of the building. Sixteen enormous paintings by local artist Caleb O'Connor, depicting the history of Tuscaloosa, adorn the walls between Ionic columns and pilasters.

Dr. Robert O. Mellown, University of Alabama Associate Professor of Art History Emeritus, is an authority on Tuscaloosa architecture. He is the author of numerous articles and publications on Alabama art and architecture including The University of Alabama: A Guide to the Campus and its Architecture *(UA Press, 2013).*



PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL DOBSON.



Federal Building and Courthouse.

Historic Preservation Featured at Thursday

The Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, the Alabama Historical Commission, and the Black Heritage Council of the Alabama Historical Commission are pleased to offer workshops and sessions on Thursday, April 25 that focus on historic preservation. Join us as we explore efforts to preserve Alabama's historic schools, many of which played pivotal roles in the earliest phases of the Civil Rights Movement; forgotten places; cemeteries and graveyards; Tuscaloosa's Civil Rights History Trail; and north Alabama's stunning space-age architecture. Learn more about the National Register of Historic Places process, Historic Tax Credit programs and their possible application to your project.

The program will take place at the Embassy Suites, and the cost to attend is $75, which includes lunch and the evening reception. See registration insert to register. The Alabama Historical Commission and the Black Heritage Council will present the Distinguished Service Award, Roy Swayze Award, and the Idella Childs Award at the Friday evening awards banquet. The Alabama Trust will present the organization's Restoration, Rehabilitation, Preservation Service, and Gwyndolyn C. Turner Preservation Awards. For more information on the program or awards, contact:

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Dorothy Walker
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PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

WORKSHOP

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Certified Local Government (CLG) Workshop**: What Local Preservation Commissions Do and How They Do It - *Mary Shell, Alabama Historical Commission*

SESSION A

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. **From Slavery to Civil Rights: A Tuscaloosa Perspective**

- "A Capital of Slavery: Tuscaloosa, Alabama 1816 - 1830" - *Jackson A. Prather*
- "They Too Call Tuscaloosa Home: African Americans and Alabama's Bicentennial" - *Dr. Richard Bailey*
- "Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History Trail" - *Dr. Scott Bridges, University of Alabama*

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. **Break**

WORKSHOP CONTINUED

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. **Certified Local Government (CLG) Workshop:** What Local Preservation Commissions Do and How They Do It - *Mary Shell, Alabama Historical Commission*

SESSION B

10:30 - 11: 45 a.m. **Partnering Outside the Box: Finding Partners That Fit the Project**

- "Lincolnite Club: Bicentennial Preservation Project" - *Mary Lue Essex, Lincolnite Club*
- "Development of a Three - Dimensional Model of Alabama Power Company's Mitchell Dam Village" - *William S. Gardner*
- "Bride's Hill Restoration Project" *J. Brett Dennis*

Program

SESSION C

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. **Post WWII and Space Age Architecture: Trends in Alabama**

- "McFarland Heights: Recognition of a Mid-Century Neighborhood in Florence - *Brian Murphy, Florence Indian Mound Museum*
- "From Rosenwald to Equalization: A Case Study on Black Schools in Lee and Macon Counties" - *Lindsey Baird and Ella Sykes, Auburn University*
- "Huntsville Architecture in the Era of Von Braun and Racial Modernization" - *Dr. Caroline Swope*

11:45 - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch Keynote**
"Search for the Clotilda: Mobile River Shipwreck Survey" - *Joseph Grinnan, M.A. Project Archaeologist, SEARCH*

SESSION D

1:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Preserving Non-Traditional Places and Documents**

- "Fashions in Stone: Gravestones and Stone Carvers in Mobile, Alabama's Church Street Graveyard" - *Stella Simpsiridis*
- "Alabama Historical Commission's Cemetery Program" - *Hannah Garmon, Alabama Historical Commission*
- "Preserving the African American Record" - *Justin Rudder, Alabama Department of Archives and History*

SESSION E

1:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Documenting Places and Incentivizing Preservation: What the Experts Know**

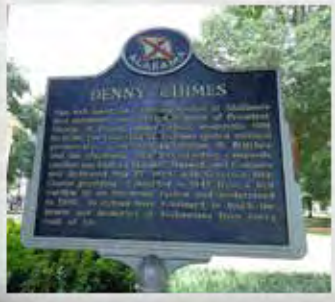
- "Understanding the National Register of Historic Places" - *Collier Neeley, Alabama Historical Commission*
- "Historic Tax Incentives and How to Use Them" - *Chloe Mercer and Taylor Stewart, Alabama Historical Commission*
- "Preserving a Legacy: A Case Study of Huntsville's I. Schiffman Building" - *Katie Stamps*

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WALKING TOUR OF UA CAMPUS

Retired history professor and author Earl Tilford will lead a walking tour of the UA Campus from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday. The tour will depart by bus from the Embassy Suites at 2 p.m. Pre-registration and an additional fee is required. See registration form for details. Dr. Tilford describes the tour below:

The walk will take us through 132 years of Capstone history focusing on the "three universities" theme. We start in 1831 to destruction by Union cavalry on April 4, 1865. Then we trace the Second University of Alabama from Woods Hall at the heart of campus following its development as we amble by Denny Chimes to Bibb Graves Hall where, in February 1956, a mob nearly lynched Autherine Lucy, the first African-American student.

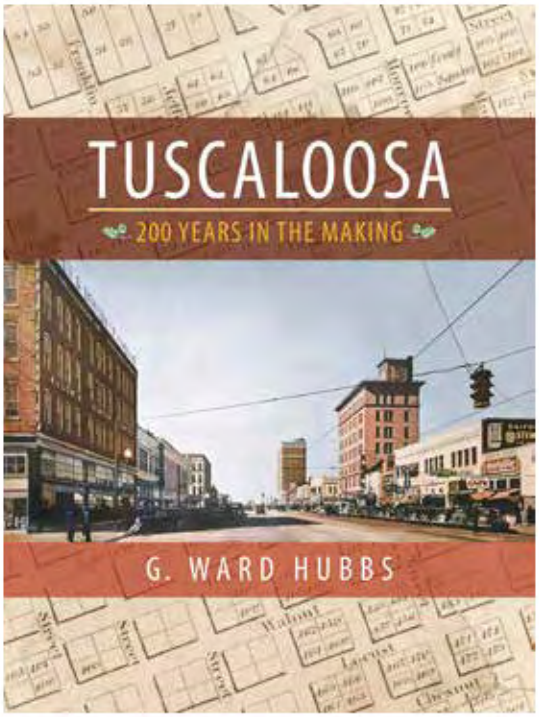
From there we stroll to Bryant-Denny Stadium to the "Walk of Champions" with statues of national championship winning coaches ushering players and fans into home games. The walk continues along University Blvd. past the Presidential Mansion culminating at Foster Auditorium where on June 11, 1963, Vivian J. Malone and James B. Hood entered to register for classes. Approximate walking distance, three-quarters of a mile.



GUY HUBBS TO DISCUSS TUSCALOOSA'S HISTORY AT 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN BROWN



G. Ward Hubbs, professor emeritus at Birmingham-Southern College, will discuss his new book *Tuscaloosa: 200 Years in the Making* on Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion. *Tuscaloosa* is a lavishly illustrated history of this distinctive city's origins as a settlement on the banks of the Black Warrior River to its development into a thriving nexus of higher education, sports, and culture. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Thursday Evening Reception to Be Held at Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion

The Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, University of Alabama Department of History, and the Summersell Center for the Study of the South will host the Thursday evening reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion (1305 Greensboro Avenue).

This magnificent Italianate house was built between 1859 and 1862 by Senator Robert Jemison Jr. to serve as his town house. The architect was John Stewart from Philadelphia, who along with his partner, Samuel Sloan, designed Bryce Hospital. The Jemison Mansion was incomplete when the Civil War erupted, causing many finishing touches to be left undone. Most of the building materials came from Jemison's extensive plantations, and skilled slaves under the supervision of Philadelphia craftsmen performed the majority of construction. The house was ahead of its time technologically: It was the first in Tuscaloosa to have a fully plumbed bathroom and even had its own gas plant to provide gas for illumination. After serving for a period as the city library, it was acquired by the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society and the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa. The main floor has been carefully restored to its original 1860s appearance.



ALABAMA MUSIC ICON BOBBY HORTON TO PERFORM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOBBY HORTON



Multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, and music historian Bobby Horton will perform at the annual awards banquet on Friday evening of the annual meeting.

Horton was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. His life-long passion for music and history began at an early age. With a trumpet-playing father and a banjo-playing grandfather, he was exposed to a varied menu of music – from the sound of the big bands, jazz combos and classical to the old time sounds of Southern gospel, sacred harp, and "hillbilly" music.

Most of the men in his young life were World War II veterans. As he listened to their war stories, he soon made the connection between these stories and the content of his school history books. When he was nine years old the United States celebrated the Centennial of the Civil War. This celebration brought the Civil War to the forefront of his interest and his love of history became deeply rooted.

Horton has performed with the musical-comedy trio Three On a String throughout the United States and Canada for 40-plus years. He has also produced and performed music scores for sixteen PBS films by Ken Burns - including "The Civil War", and "Baseball," as well as two films for the A&E network, and twenty-one films for The National Park Service. Bobby resides in a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama, with Lynda, his wife of thirty-plus years.

72nd Meeting of the Alab

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.	**Meeting of the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, Alabama Historical Commission, and Black Heritage Council at Embassy Suites.** AHA members are invited to attend. See pages 8 and 9 for program and registration information.
2:00 p.m.	**Guided Walking Tour of UA Campus.** Departs from Embassy Suites. Pre-registration required.
5:00 p.m.	**Book Talk with Guy Hubbs on *Tuscaloosa: 200 Years in the Making*** Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion
6:00 p.m.	**Reception** Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion

ama Historical Association

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Embassy Suites

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales**

9:00 a.m. **General Session**

10:45 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

SESSION A

- "James Fife: Jackson's Faithful Scout, Man of Mischief"
 T.R. Henderson, Headland
- "'To punish the violator': Creek Nation Law and the Fall of Chief William McIntosh"
 Robert P. Collins, Auburn University
- "'The Indian Fires are Going Out': A Tuscaloosa Marker, Random History, and the Problems of Historical Commemoration"
 Kathryn H. Braund, Auburn University

SESSION B

- "Dusting Off the Data: Civil War Conscription Ledgers of Dadeville, Alabama, 1864"
 Jennifer P. Wiggins, Auburn University
- "The Air Service in Alabama during World War I"
 Robert B. Kane, Air University
- "Training for War at Alabama's Grandest Hotel"
 Augustine Meaher, Air University

SESSION C

- "Insanity and Murderous Rage in William L. Yancey's Family"
 Ralph B. Draughon, Jr., Auburn
- "'To Take the World as I find it': An Ante-Bellum Gap Year"
 Marian Crenshaw Austin, University of East Anglia
- "Kathleen Mallory: Sweetheart of Alabama Baptists"
 Cindy McMurtrey Johnson, Harpersville, Ala.

Noon **Lunch**

1:00 - 4:30 p.m. **Tours**

6:00 p.m. **Cash Bar**

7:00 p.m. **Annual Awards Banquet**

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales**

9:00 a.m. **General Session**

10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

SESSION A

- "Reclaiming the Rural Southern Woman: An Analysis of the New Negro Woman of the South, 1880-1920"
 La-Kisha Emmanuel, University of Alabama
- "'Everything we do is civil rights': Sisters of St. Joseph and Civil Rights"
 Shannon Lampton, Somerville, Ala.
- "The History of Lynching as Spectacle in Alabama"
 Tammy Blue, University of Alabama at Birmingham

SESSION B

- "Booker T. Washington: The Agrarian Radical"
 Dante A. Whittaker, Jr., University of Alabama
- "Reconnecting with Alabama's Forgotten Origin: The Louisiana Purchase"
 David M. Robb, Jr., Huntsville
- "The 'Bloody Sunday' Conflict Site in Selma, AL: A Methodology for Identifying Details of Missing Historical Material"
 Richard Burt, Auburn University

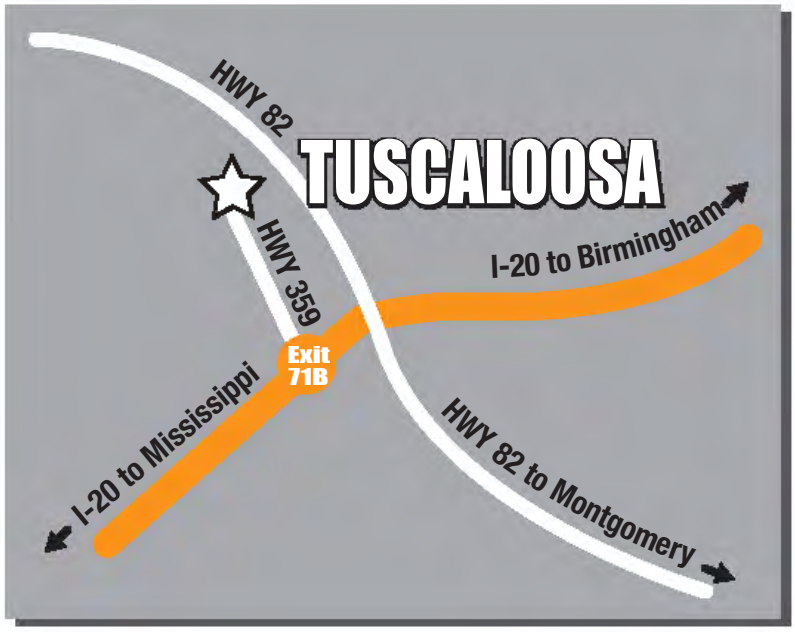
SESSION C

- "Roll Tide! War Eagle! The Resumption of the Alabama-Auburn Football Rivalry"
 Leah Rawls Atkins, Birmingham
- "Walter Chamberlain: Courthouse Architect"
 Samuel A. Rumore, Jr., Birmingham
- "Green Faces and Interracial Apartment Hunting: Social Experiments at Huntington College"
 A. Blake Denton, Alabama Bicentennial Commission

11:45 a.m. **Annual Luncheon**
Presidential Address by Dr. Valerie Burnes

The Embassy Suites by Hilton
2410 University Blvd • (205) 561-2500
Call the hotel by March 27 and mention the AHA to receive the group rate of $124 per night, or use group code 170406HIST to book online at www.auhcc.com.

Jemison-Van De Graaff Mansion
1305 Greensboro Ave
Reception Location





Additional Tour Locations

All stops indicate parking information

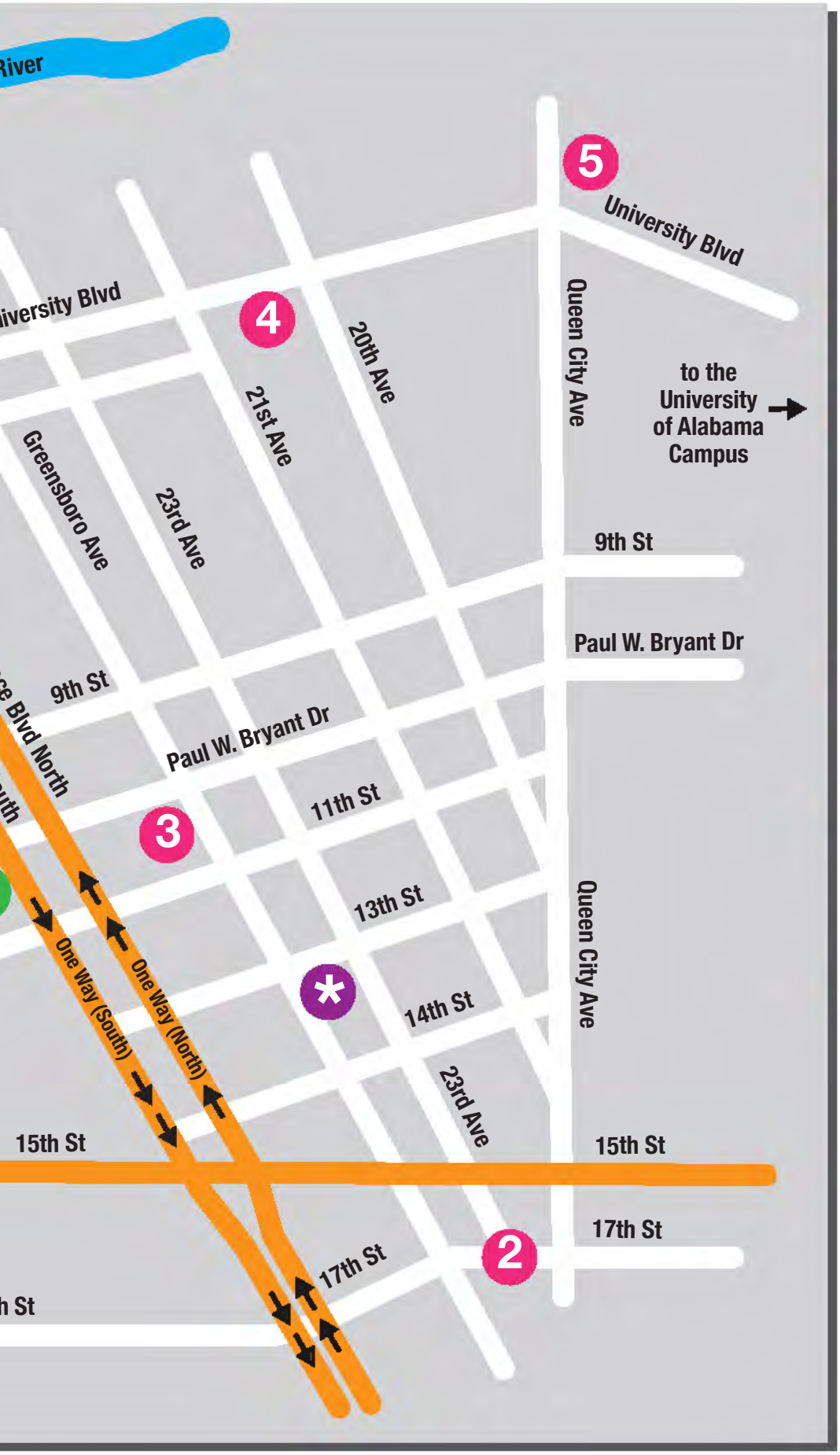
1 BAMA Theater
600 Greensboro Ave (walk from Embassy)

2 Drish House
2300 17th St (limited on-site parking)

3 Battle-Friedman House & Garden
1010 Greensboro Ave (on-site parking lot)
Tuscaloosa Preservation Society Docent

4 Federal Courthouse Murals
2005 University Blvd (streetside parking)

5 The University Club
421 Queen City Ave (on-site parking lot)



Tour Group #1

Streetside parking - All stops are within 1 block of each other

A **Old Tavern & Gardens**
500 28th Ave
Tuscaloosa Preservation Society Docent & Quilt Exhibit

B **Capitol Ruins**
2828 6th St

C **Old Jail**
2803 6th St
Also part of Civil Rights Trail

Tour Group #2

Park at Church - All stops are within 1 block of each other

D **First African Baptist Church**
2621 Stillman Blvd

E **Murphy-Collins African-American Museum**
2601 Bryant Dr
Tuscaloosa Preservation Society Docent

F **Historic Greenwood Cemetery**
Corner of T.Y. Rogers Ave and Stillman Blvd

Please don't rely on the scale of this map for navigation.

Scan this QR code for access to the Google Map.



BAMA THEATRE

600 Greensboro Ave., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

The Bama Theatre was built in 1938 at the location of the former city hall with funds from the Public Works Administration and the city. The complex cost $200,000 to complete and was the first public building in the city with a true air conditioning system. It regulated the temperature and humidity plus filtered the air. The exterior of the theatre features a rounded façade of limestone and the panels between the windows are granite, both layered on a brick veneer. The interior, placed in a class of theatres labeled "atmospheric," was designed by architect David O. Whilldin as a Mediterranean Palazo during the Italian Renaissance. The ceiling is lined with small flashing lights accompanied by painted clouds, bringing to mind the night sky. Other elements include faux balconies, terra cotta tiles, cherub plaques and a small alabaster fountain.



THE OLD TAVERN

500 28th Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Innkeeper William Dunton built the structure in 1827, three blocks from its current site as a tavern and hotel on the stagecoach route that passed through Tuscaloosa. As the bridge was being built across the Black Warrior River in 1966, local residents raised the funds to move the Old Tavern to its current location to save it from being demolished. One of the few remaining 19th-century inns in the state, the Old Tavern provides visitors with a rare glimpse of early Tuscaloosa commercial architecture. During its operation as a hostelry, it served as the temporary home and meeting place of legislators, Confederate soldiers, and countless people traveling to or through the city. At one time, it was even the temporary home of Governor John Gayle (1831-1835).



CAPITOL RUINS

2828 6th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

On December 6, 1825, the Alabama State Senate agreed to relocate the state capital from Cahaba to Tuscaloosa, where it remained from 1826 to 1847 before moving to Montgomery. The Tuscaloosa Capitol was designed by English architect William Nichols as a combination of Greek Revival and Federal styles. The elevated copper dome could be seen from passing ships on the Black Warrior River. Although budgeted to cost between $10,000 and $55,000, the final cost has been estimated to be near $150,000. In 1857 the Capitol building was leased to the Alabama Central Female College, but was destroyed by fire in 1923. The ruins of the State Capitol building are still found in Capitol Park, including two small columns. The ruins were preserved during the 1930s.



OLD TUSCALOOSA COUNTY JAIL

2803 6th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

In 1856, William B. Robertson built the jail at the cost of $8,029.40. It had the reputation as being the strongest jail in the Southeast; however, one man eventually escaped in 1884--Stephen S. Renfroe, famously known as the "Outlaw Sheriff of Sumter County." Renfroe reportedly burned a hole through the second floor of the jail and escaped through a window on the first floor. The building served as the county jail until 1890 when a new jail was constructed. It was later used as a boarding house, and then a VFW lodge for several decades. The Tuscaloosa City School Board of Education (TCSBE) purchased the building in 1980, but now stands empty. In March 2017, the Equal Justice Initiative erected a historical marker at the site of the Old Jail to memorialize eight African American men lynched in Tuscaloosa County between 1884 and 1933.



GREENWOOD CEMETERY

Corner of T.Y. Rogers Avenue and Stillman Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

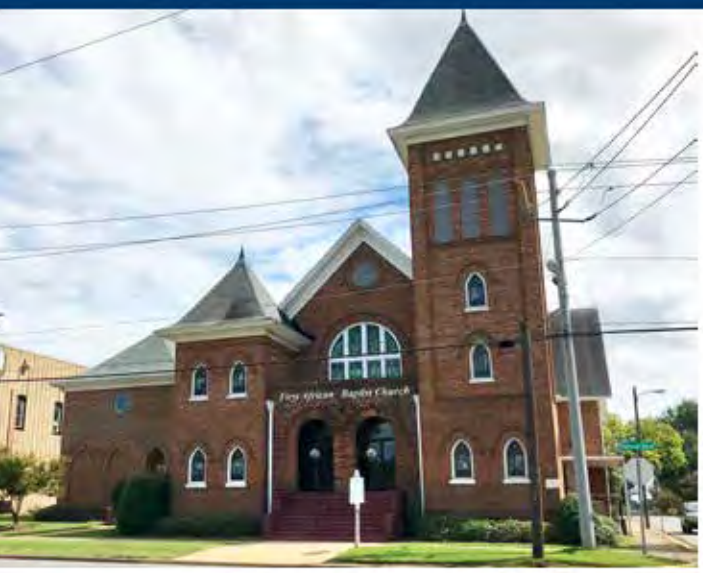
Greenwood is one of the oldest, continuous-use cemeteries in Tuscaloosa County. It was laid out shortly after the first survey of the city of Tuscaloosa in 1821. Some of the ornate marble markers were carved in New Orleans; however, many were carved from local sandstone by masons working on the state capitol once located three blocks north. Greenwood is the resting place for Native Americans, blacks, and whites. In it are the graves of many of early Tuscaloosa's most prominent citizens. Among those is Dr. John Drish, a famed doctor and landowner; former Gov. Lurleen Burns Wallace; Solomon Perteat, a prominent free, black craftsman who lived in Tuscaloosa prior to the Civil War; Confederate Gen. Philip Dale Roddey; and Rev. Charles Stillman, founder of the college that bears his name.



MURPHY-COLLINS HOUSE

2601 Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Tuscaloosa's first licensed black embalmer and mortician, Will J. Murphy hired black contractor George Chopton to build this two-story craftsman bungalow in the early 1920s as his private residence. Materials from the old state capitol building a few blocks away, such as bricks and windowsills, were salvaged when it burned in 1923 and used in the house's construction. The street on which this home sits was the dividing line between blacks and whites in Tuscaloosa. This area was where mainly professional African Americans lived, with beautiful homes adorned by white lace curtains, which gave the area the name "The Lace Curtain Community." After Murphy passed away, Sylvia Collins purchased the home before selling it to the city in 1986. Today, the structure operates as the Murphy African American Museum, focusing on the lifestyle of affluent blacks during the early 1900s.



FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

2621 Stillman Blvd., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

First African Baptist Church was first established in 1866 with founding pastor Rev. Prince Murrell, a one-time enslaved person. Members initially met in private homes and then in 1900 they built the current structure at a cost of $25,000. The architecture was inspired by the work of Robert Taylor, a Tuskegee faculty member and the first black person professionally trained and licensed as an architect at MIT. Selma University was organized in January 1878 at a state convention meeting that was held at FABC. In 1963, Rev. T.Y. Rogers Jr. became pastor, at the recommendation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rogers helped organize the Tuscaloosa Citizens for Action Committee, which held all of its meetings in this church. During a peaceful protest on June 9, 1964, to overturn segregation in Tuscaloosa, more than 600 marchers were beaten and tear gas was thrown into the church. The violent incident became known as "Bloody Tuesday."



THE BATTLE-FRIEDMAN HOUSE AND GARDEN

1010 Greensboro Ave, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Alfred Battle, a North Carolina native, came to Tuscaloosa in 1821 and built the Battle-Friedman House around 1835. Originally, the house consisted of the two front parlors, central hallway and the rooms above. The columned porch and the rooms at the back of the house were added at various times before the Civil War. In 1875, Bernard Friedman, a local merchant who had emigrated from Hungary, bought the house from the Battles. It remained in the Friedman family until 1965, when Hugo Friedman willed it to the city of Tuscaloosa. The exterior of the house is stucco over brick and painted to resemble red marble. The front porch has distinctively Tuscaloosa-styled paneled square columns. Inside, elaborate plasterwork handcrafted by one of the slaves, decorates the walls and ceilings of the front parlors and hallways. Some of this is original to the house, but the Friedman family added the distinctive art deco *nasturtium frieze* in the halls in the early part of the twentieth century. The house also contains a fine collection of renaissance revival furniture. The house's grounds include the only remaining documented antebellum garden in the state, which were designed by a British landscape architect.

THE DRISH HOUSE

2300 17th St., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dr. John R. Drish, a prominent early settler, designed this house, which was built by artisan slaves in 1837, as a focal point for a 450-acre plantation that bordered the city limits of Tuscaloosa. Drish remodeled the mansion in the 1850s, adding massive columns and the distinctive Italianate tower. The house remained one of the finest residences in the city until 1906, when it was converted into a public school. In later years it deteriorated and was used as a garage and then a Baptist church. Preservationist Nika McCool purchased the mansion and began exhaustive renovations in 2014. Walker Evans photographed the mansion in the 1930s and "Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company" remains one of his best-known photographs. According to some, the Drish House is the most haunted place in Alabama with haunted tours taking place frequently. Dr. Drish died in 1867 when he fell down a stairway, and it is said that his widow Sarah is responsible for the hauntings that occur here.

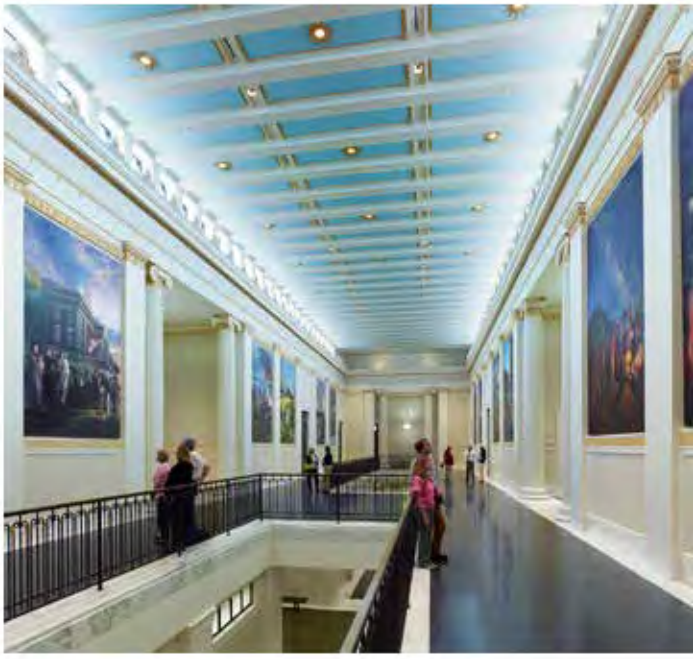




FEDERAL COURTHOUSE MURALS

2005 University Blvd., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

In 2011, the 127,000-square-foot $47.8 million Tuscaloosa Federal Building and Courthouse opened. It features 32,000 square feet of limestone veneer and marble quarried from Sylacauga. The building has multiple tenants, including the US District Court, the US Bankruptcy court (both of which required courtrooms and support spaces), Sen. Richard Shelby's offices, the US Probation Office, the US Marshals Service, the US Attorney's Office, the GSA, congressional offices, the Social Security Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The real attraction, however, are the sixteen 9-by-14-foot murals created by local artist Caleb O'Connor. The murals span from when Alabama was a territory inhabited mainly by natives through the Civil War and Civil Rights Movement to University of Alabama football and the April 27, 2011, tornadoes. O'Connor used local citizens as models for the many people represented in the murals. Look closely; you might recognize someone!



THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

421 Queen City Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

The University Club, a classic Greek Revival style structure, stands on land that in March 1819 was reserved by the US Congress as part of a donation to endow "a seminary for learning" for the state of Alabama. Trustees sold the land to finance building the university. After a series of owners, James H. Dearing, a steamboat captain and member of the Alabama Legislature, purchased the property in January 1834. He spent $14,000 to erect the home but sold it just two years later. The mansion later became home to Gov. Arthur Pendleton Bagby (1837-1841). As far as is known, he was the only governor who occupied the structure while Tuscaloosa was the state capital. In 1944 the university acquired the home as a social center for faculty and staff, and it was furnished by Mildred Westervelt Warner and Herbert D. Warner and later their son Jack Warner, who continued to provide antiques, paintings, and artifacts throughout his life.



TUSCALOOSA CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY TRAIL

By Rebecca Todd Minder

A group of dedicated citizens, historians, and foot soldiers have been working for the past two years to tell the story of Tuscaloosa's place in the Civil Rights Movement and develop the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History Trail. The Trail will have three designated districts with the first focusing on the events surrounding "Bloody Tuesday" in downtown Tuscaloosa.

On June 9, 1964, one year after Gov. George C. Wallace Jr.'s "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" at the University of Alabama, a group of peaceful citizens gathered at the First African Baptist Church to march to the new courthouse in protest of its segregated features. The group, led by the church's pastor, Rev. T. Y. Rogers Jr., didn't get very far. Police and members of the Ku Klux Klan attacked the marchers and fired tear gas into the church. Many of the wounded were treated at the nearby Howard-Linton Barbershop. Thirty-three were sent to Druid City Hospital; ninety-three were arrested and jailed.

To understand the full story of Civil Rights history in Tuscaloosa, one must look at the factors that led to the need for the movement. This Trail includes the stories of



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enslaved people auctioned before the Civil War, Native Americans exiled from their homelands, exclusionary legislation passed at the Alabama State Capitol in Tuscaloosa, lynchings in the area, and the United Klans of America that was headquartered in Tuscaloosa. It is the story of decades of segregated life in schools, churches, stores, restaurants, and movie theaters. But it is also the inspiring story of black and white citizens who overcame great adversity to break the color line in Tuscaloosa.

In Tuscaloosa's Bluefront District, a cluster of successful black merchants located themselves near the corner of 23rd Avenue and 7th Street. These stores became an important commercial space for blacks during segregation and offered more dignified consumer environment than they typically experienced. It was in this District that the Diamond Theatre was opened specifically for the African-American community. Hunter Chapel AME Zion Church was the first black Methodist church organized in Tuscaloosa. It was founded by Shandy Wesley Jones, who was born a slave and later founded the first school for black children in Tuscaloosa County. Jones also was elected as Tuscaloosa's first black to serve in the Alabama legislature. Buford Boone, publisher of the *The Tuscaloosa News*, penned an editorial demanding that blacks be welcomed at the University of Alabama, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing in 1957.

Many of the locations highlighted on this year's AHA Conference tours are featured on the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History Trail. It's a story of not just the locations or historic structures, but of the people who created events at these locations to change the course of Tuscaloosa's path toward inclusion.



Marker Dedication in Morgan County. Photo courtesy of Jeronimo Nisa/The Decatur Daily.

2018 HISTORICAL MARKERS

Twenty-three new historical markers in fourteen counties were installed in 2018, a banner year for the Association's long-running marker program. Many of these new markers feature the special crest in honor of the state's bicentennial celebration. Among the highlights of the 2018 markers are William Carl Roeck, a German-born soldier and Tallapoosa County politician, Montgomery civil rights activist Rev. Richard Boone, the Houston-Bailey House in Sumter County, a marker at the Morgan County Courthouse about the Scottsboro Boys cases and Judge James Horton, and the former site of the Atlantic Coast Line's railroad depot in Dale County.

The Association assisted in the refurbishment of a dozen historical markers last year as well.

A full list of the 2018 markers will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Alabama Review*.



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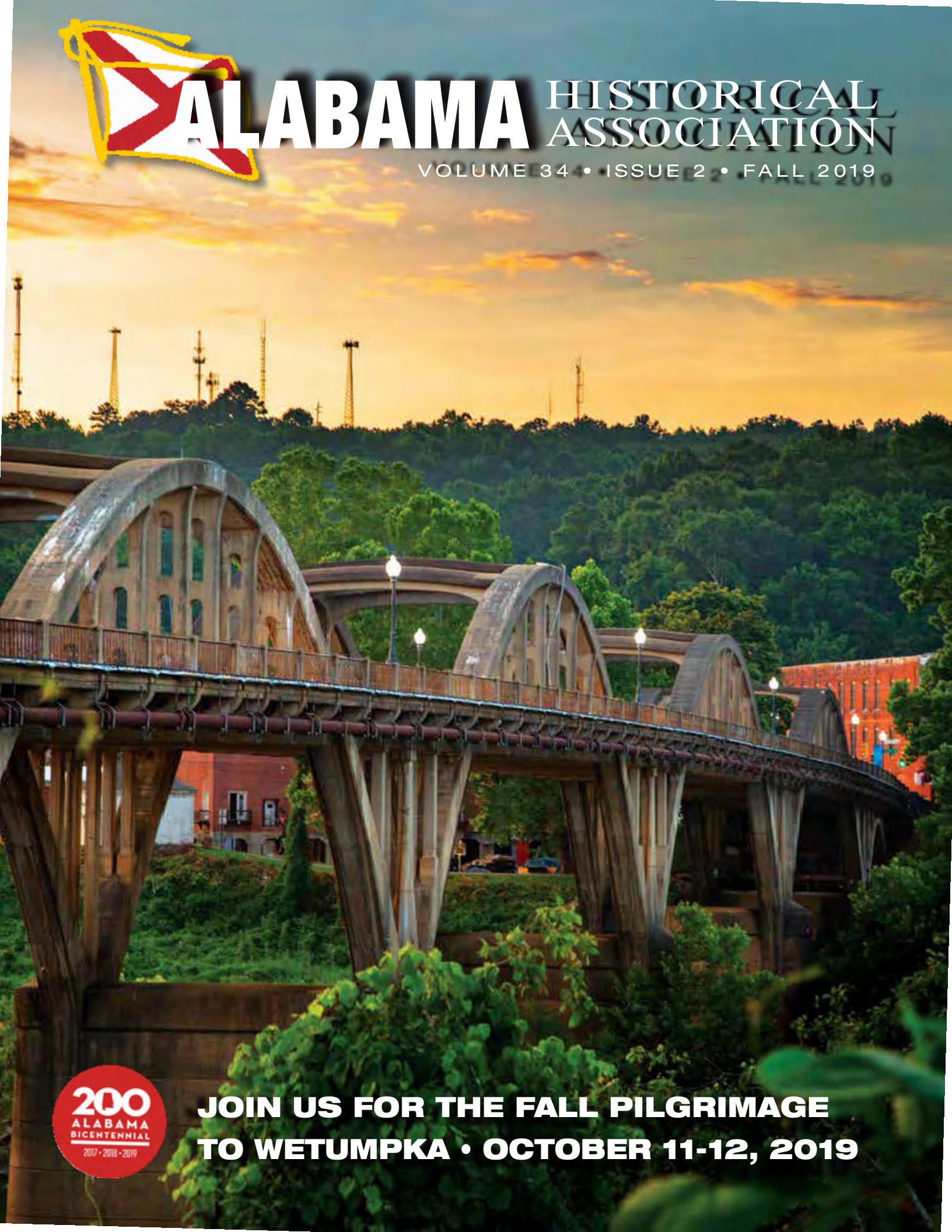
THE AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE

Will be held in Wetumpka, October 11 and 12, 2019.



Bibb Graves Bridge. Photo courtesy of Main Street Wetumpka.

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 2 • FALL 2019



200 ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL 2017 • 2018 • 2019

JOIN US FOR THE FALL PILGRIMAGE TO WETUMPKA • OCTOBER 11-12, 2019

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Cover Photo: Bibb Graves Bridge. Courtesy of Chrietzberg Photography

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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.



Frazine Taylor

Greetings! Though we are nearing the end of the State's bicentennial celebrations, the Alabama Historical Association (AHA) will continue to reflect on our State's diverse history. In October 2019, the AHA invites you to learn more about Alabama's "almost capital," Wetumpka, my hometown. According to *The History of Wetumpka* by Elizabeth Porter, published in 1957, "In 1845 there was a movement to move the Capital from Tuscaloosa: Wetumpka was a competitor for the honor of being the site for the state Capital and being the Capital City. Wetumpka and Montgomery were both at the time promising cities. Wetumpka lost the Capital by a small vote." If it had not been for that "small vote" by a handful of people opposed to making Wetumpka the capital of Alabama, we would be celebrating the Fall Pilgrimage in the capital of the state. Instead, Wetumpka is seventeen miles north of the current capital of Montgomery and many people today say Wetumpka is a "bedroom community of Montgomery."

On Friday, October 11, and Saturday, October 12, we will embark on a cultural and educational experience created by the Wetumpka AL200 Celebration Committee, along with their partners, Main Street Wetumpka, the Elmore County Black Heritage Association, the Elmore County Commission, and the City of Wetumpka. Wetumpka is lovingly called "Rumbling Waters" because of its location near the Coosa River. Beautiful homes and churches and a picturesque downtown with a flavor all its own await you. On Friday afternoon, we will have a special treat at Jasmine Hill Gardens & Outdoor Museum followed by an opening reception and refreshments at the home of noted art collector, Benjamin Fitzpatrick.

Wetumpka's diverse communities and history are evident on the faces of the people and the designs of the houses and historic downtown buildings. Icons such as Fort Toulouse and Fort Jackson, the Fain Theater, and the Tulotoma Snail Trail Alley Yard are just a few of the sites you will see. In addition to notable places such as the historic town of Wetumpka and Jasmine Hill, Wetumpka is also home to two noted artists, John Kelly Fitzpatrick and Msgt. Columbus Cook, an African American. Fitzpatrick painted rural Central Alabama from the 1920s through the Great Depression. Columbus Cook draws and paints with a variety of media — pencil, pen and ink, markers, oils and acrylics. His collection includes hand drawings created while he was deployed in Saudi Arabia, showing life there during Operation Desert Storm. In February 2019, Cook donated several pieces of his artwork to the City of Wetumpka. His works are on display in the Elmore County Black History Museum, the Elmore County Historical Society and Museum, and the Wetumpka Library. You will be able to see both artists' works at the Museums and Library.

So, join the AHA on October 11-12 to see my hometown and the progress it has made and learn about the history of the diverse groups of people who created the awesome city we have today!

Frazine Taylor
President

WETUMPKA:
The City of Natural Beauty

By Jenny Enslen Stubbs

In the heart of Alabama's River Region lies a quaint, small town with a history as remarkable as its natural beauty. In 1834, the City of Wetumpka was incorporated, eventually becoming the county seat after Elmore County was organized in 1866. But long before its official incorporation, Wetumpka played host to a range of significant events.

Wetumpka is home to one of only 200 world-recognized impact craters, due to a meteor that hit the area over an estimated 80 million years ago, resulting in beautiful green hills that form the rim of the five-mile-wide crater. This unique topography, including an abundance of rivers, creeks, and woodland wildlife found therein, lends to the city's nickname as the "City of Natural Beauty," making it a treasured spot for recreational outdoor activities, including whitewater kayaking, fishing, cycling, trail running, and bird watching. Added to this significant topography is the fact the fall line runs through the middle of downtown, where the Appalachian Foothills end and the Gulf Coastal Plain begins.

The Coosa River and Tallapoosa River merge three miles south of the state-owned Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson Park. This well-drained area served as a homesite for Native Americans from 6,000 B.C. until 1814. Native Americans lived in the area for more than 6,000 years, with remnants of early mounds dating back to 1100-1600 A.D., although villages are thought to have been erected as far back as 1 A.D.

Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, a French naval officer who eventually became known as the "Father of Louisiana," sent an expedition up the Alabama River to locate a site for Fort Toulouse, which was later completed around 1717.

Between 1717 and 1763, the French built a series of three forts at this location, all known as Fort Toulouse, at the invitation of the Creeks. Throughout that time, Fort Toulouse served as the eastern outpost of the French Colony of Louisiana, which stretched up the Mississippi River to Canada. The post's primary objective was to keep the English out of the region and make French policy known among the Creeks. A thriving community of farmsteads was built by French soldiers, whose families lived around the fort. French children grew up playing with Creek children from the nearby village of Pakana.

In 1775, naturalist, horticulturalist, artist, and author William Bartram journeyed through the area, cataloguing flora and fauna and describing its native people, inspiring



Aerial view of Wetumpka, Alabama. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Group eating watermelon on a riverbank in Wetumpka, Alabama. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



"Fort Toulouse Monument, near Wetumpka, Ala." Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.

poets like Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth.

Later, years after Fort Toulouse was decommissioned, a new fort was established and named Fort Jackson. In 1814, Red Stick leader William Weatherford surrendered to Andrew Jackson, resulting in the Treaty of Fort Jackson, contributing to the Creek Indian Removal. Once the removal of the Native Americans was complete, Wetumpka's growth was immediate and its position at the head of navigation on the Coosa River, as well as the surrounding rich agricultural land, gave rise to a successful center of trade.

From 1831 to 1832, street patterns in the area were mapped and the town was divided into lots and sold by the federal government. Then in 1834, surrounding incorporations were combined to form one City of Wetumpka, its name being derived from the Muscogee Creek words "we-wau" (water) "tum-cau" (rumbling), describing elements of the Coosa where the rapids race across the river rocks causing a rumbling sound. By 1836, *Harper's Weekly* declared that "Wetumpka, Alabama, and Chicago, Illinois, are the most promising two cities of the West."

Affirmation of this growth is the construction of the first state penitentiary, which was completed in Wetumpka by 1841. Today, Elmore County houses four operating state prisons, including Julia Tutwiler Prison for women, which opened in 1942 and is named for the noted educator and advocate for the improvement of prison conditions.

Several bridges over the Coosa have been constructed throughout the years, including a covered bridge in 1844. Although the contract for bridge construction was awarded to John Godwin, master architect and African American bridge builder Horace King, later emancipated from slavery, was actually responsible for the covered bridge in Wetumpka, which was later destroyed by flood. His portrait hangs in the rotunda of the Alabama Capitol building today, close to the cantilevered spiral staircase he designed and built.

In 1845, Wetumpka lost its bid to become the state capital and nearby Montgomery was chosen instead. Large fires ravaged the town in 1845 and 1852, and the Civil War created hardships as well. But despite these difficulties, the area continued to grow. Wetumpka was chosen as the site for the county's courthouse in 1866, but the town's size and fortunes continued to fluctuate. Although the population reached over 3,000 before 1875, by 1879 it barely eclipsed 600. In 1886, the largest flood in the town's history swept away King's bridge and resulted in businesses moving from the west side of the river to the east. To add to the disruption, an earthquake hit the town the same year.

By 1887, social and economic upheaval took its toll, and the town was subject to bouts of violence, death, and lawlessness. According to *The Wetumpka Times* in 1887, a central area of town became known as the "dark and bloody square of Wetumpka" because of the number of violent deaths which occurred there.

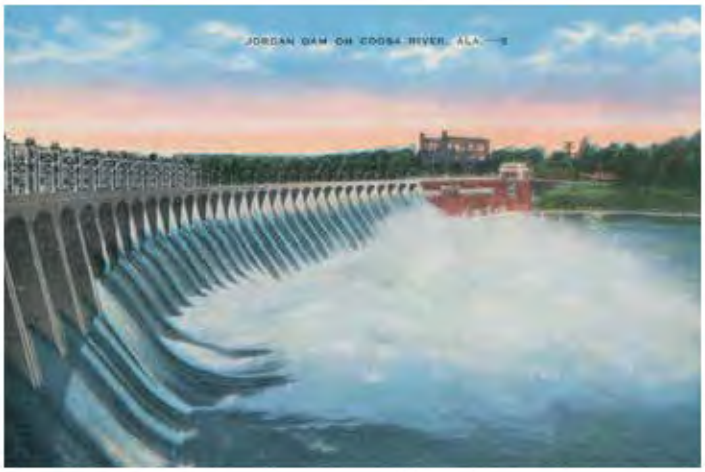
Despite this, the first telephone was installed, and the small town was once again prospering by the early 1900s, even with disastrous fires in 1902 and 1908.



Interior of a drugstore in Wetumpka, Alabama. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Downtown Wetumpka, Alabama. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



"Jordan Dam on Coosa River, Alabama." Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Lock 31, a recognizable and imposing concrete structure that now sits in the river next to a boat landing, was the last lock in a series of 31 locks and dams of an 1889 abandoned project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of the project was to aid the travel of steamboats traversing the series of rapids starting as far north as Rome, Georgia, and ending with the treacherous "Devil's Staircase" in Wetumpka. Due to the advent of trains, high costs of the project, the impending Spanish-American War, and continual setbacks, construction of the lock ended in 1896. The lock was never completed or put into use.

Other monumental changes took place around the start of the 20th century, including the establishment of the Fifth District Agricultural School in 1897, a new jail, and electrical power and public water in 1905. In 1906, not only was the first high school football game being played, but the Louisville & Nashville Railroad built a new depot in the town. The first Model T Ford hit the streets in 1909, cement sidewalks replaced wooden planks in 1911, and the Fain Theater brought the silver screen to the city in 1913.

Growth slowed in the area during World War I, but significant progress was made in 1924 when the Elmore County Training School, one of the iconic Rosenwald Schools, was built for African American students during segregation. Today, the structure houses the Elmore County Black History Museum, and the historic teachers' home still stands nearby.

Arguably the most photographed structure in Wetumpka, the Bibb Graves Bridge was constructed in 1931 using reinforced concrete. Within a few years of the bridge's construction, the city's population increased to 2,000.

The historic business district of the town retains a very eclectic architectural and historical identity but primarily illustrates characteristics of 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture in Alabama. Many turn-of-the-century commercial buildings were built during this time and still stand today. The district primarily consists of two-story brick storefronts that are evidence of the economic evolution of the community. Some of the more notable structures include a three-story hotel, commonly known as the Hotel Lancaster, the Chamber of Commerce building that was recently renovated, the former post office that is now the Elmore County Museum, and a predominant triangular building that first housed a bank in 1905. The historic courthouse was built in 1932 in the Greek Revival style like many courthouses built during that era.

Wetumpka has been home to influential artists, politicians, scientists, athletes, and military heroes. In 1909, Wetumpka native Mary Roberta "Molly" Cousins became the first female county superintendent of education in the state.

One of Alabama's most important advocates for art education, John Kelly Fitzpatrick, also from Wetumpka, created the Dixie Art Colony in 1933 and also helped to create the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.

The five Crommelin brothers – John, Henry, Richard, Charles and Quentin – served in the Pacific in World War II. Their childhood home was near Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson. All of the brothers graduated from the United States Naval Academy and were nicknamed the "Indestructibles" by *TIME* magazine because of their heroic efforts in some of World War II's most famous battles. The USS *Crommelin* would later be commissioned in their honor.



Bibb Graves Bridge over the Coosa River in Wetumpka, Alabama. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Old Tavern, Broad and West Bridge Streets, Wetumpka, Elmore County, AL. Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress.

Another World War II hero who graduated from the naval academy, Admiral Charles McMorris, was born and raised in Wetumpka and would later have the destroyer escort USS *McMorris* named for him.

Florence Golson Bateman, although blinded as a child, succeeded in music education and eventually became one of the most nationally acclaimed American opera singers and composers of her era. She has since been inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame.

In 1939, Wetumpka native Jessie Welch Austin became the first female sheriff in Alabama.

Now Wetumpka Elementary School, the W. B. Doby "equalization" school, was dedicated and named for African American education proponent Welton Blanton Doby, former principal at the Elmore County Training School and the first president of the Elmore County Teachers Association in 1963.

Born in the nearby Titus community, prolific baseball player Joseph Wheeler Sewell was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977. That same year, William Benson Bryant became the first African American to be appointed as a chief federal judge. Although he primarily grew up in the Washington, D.C., area, Bryant was born in Wetumpka but was forced to move with his family after a lynch mob threatened the life of his grandfather. A federal courthouse annex on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., is named in his honor.

Mary Olive Enslen Tinder, born and raised in Wetumpka, was a pioneer in broadcasting and became the first female broadcaster to air the Indianapolis 500 and host her own nationally syndicated television talk show.

Several movies have been filmed in Wetumpka. In 1995, *The Grass Harp*, based on the book by Truman Capote, was filmed in downtown. The next year, the 1996 Olympic flame was passed at Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum's replica of the Temple of Hera.

The Rosa Parks Story was filmed in Wetumpka in 2002. *Big Fish*, a Tim Burton movie, was filmed in downtown in 2003. Today, the "Big Fish House" is a staple fixture in downtown, although it is owned privately. This past summer, the town was also the filming location for *Son of the South*, based on an autobiographical book by Bob Zellner entitled *The Wrong Side of Murder Creek*.



Pastor and Congregation, Mt. Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, 1986. Courtesy of Frazine Taylor.

Known for his study of the Big Bang Theory, former Wetumpka resident Dr. George Smoot, III, a renowned astrophysicist and cosmologist, won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2006.

In January 2019, an EF-2 tornado hit the area, mostly impacting the west side of downtown. The 180 mile per hour winds caused significant damage to historic churches, including two built in the 1850s, as well as to over 30 residences, some of which were completely destroyed.

Remnants of Wetumpka's robust economy through pioneer settlement, changes in transportation methods, agricultural trends, and both national and local politics are still recognizable today. An interest in its remarkably comprehensive history is continually being captured, and historic preservation, despite recent devastation, continues to be embraced by the community.

———

Jenny Enslen Stubbs is executive director of Main Street Wetumpka.



Jasmine Hill Gardens, near Wetumpka, Alabama. The George F. Landegger Collection of Alabama Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Special thanks to the Wetumpka AL200 Celebration Committee for the following summaries and Jenny Enslen Stubbs for the photographs.

ELMORE COUNTY MUSEUM

112 South Main Street

First constructed as the community's post office in 1937, this building is now owned by the City of Wetumpka. The property was leased to the Elmore County Historical Society in 2008 for purposes of curating a museum, which currently houses items that portray everyday life in early Alabama.

In 2017, Main Street Wetumpka worked with the City of Wetumpka, the Elmore County Historical Society and various community businesses and residents to cultivate the first stop on the Tulotoma Snail Trail, an art history cultivating place project. Through October 23, the museum will be the location of Elmore County's hosting of Making Alabama: A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5375 US Highway 231

The current site of Trinity Episcopal Church was established in the early 1970's on land donated to the Episcopal Church by the Crommelin family. An old cotton warehouse building from downtown Wetumpka was relocated to the site and remodeled to house the church nave. In addition, a new parish hall building was built. In the late 1980's, a third building was built to expand Trinity's Sunday School Department and to contain a much needed office area. Through 2008-09, a new, sizable Gothic style church building was constructed. The building was afterwards consecrated by The Right Reverend Henry Parsley, Bishop of Alabama.

FORT TOULOUSE/FORT JACKSON

2521 W. Fort Toulouse Road

Fort Toulouse was built by the French in 1717 to serve as the eastern outpost of French Colonial Louisiana. Its primary function was to make French policy known among the Creek Indian Confederacy, seal their alliance and keep the English out of the region. Importantly, the fort served as a diplomatic and commercial center among the Creeks. The lucrative deer skin trade was controlled by the King's representatives while the French Colonial Marines stationed here were paid in trade goods which could be exchanged to the Natives for necessary commodities. The fort and adjacent Native village of Pakana were situated on the well-drained high terrace at the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers.

In 1814, Fort Jackson was built over the remains of Fort Toulouse. The Treaty of Fort Jackson sealed the end of the Creek War with the Creeks signing over 20 million acres of land to the U.S. government. This important treaty opened Alabama up for settlement, resulting in Alabama statehood only five years later.







JASMINE HILL GARDENS & OUTDOOR MUSEUM

3001 Jasmine Hill Road

Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum, known as "Alabama's Little Corner of Greece," features over 20 acres of year-round floral beauty and classical sculpture, including statues of Olympic heroes and mythical gods.

This idyllic location is part of the Alabama Garden Trail and also played a part in the passing of the torch for the 1996 Olympics. The gardens include a full-scale replica of the Temple of Hera, along with a myriad of flowers, sculptures and fountains. The site sits along the rim of the Wetumpka Impact Crater.

The Benjamin and Mary Fitzpatrick home is also found here, which contains an impressive number of artifacts brought back from the couple's extensive trips to Greece in the mid-20th century.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES: AHA FALL PILGRIMAGE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Pre-meeting Opportunities

12-2 p.m. **Elmore County Museum**
112 South Main Street
Making Alabama: A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit

Trinity Episcopal Church
5375 U.S. Highway 231

2-4 p.m. **Fort Toulouse - Fort Jackson State Park**
2521 W. Fort Toulouse Road ($2 entry fee)

Opening Reception

4-5:30 p.m. **Jasmine Hill Gardens & Outdoor Museum**
3001 Jasmine Hill Road

5:30-7 p.m. **Fitzpatrick Home at Jasmine Hill Gardens & Outdoor Museum**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:30-10 a.m. **Historic Elmore County Courthouse**
100 E. Commerce Street
Registration, Coffee and Muffins, Book Sales

10-11:30 a.m. **Historic Elmore County Courthouse**
100 E. Commerce Street
- *Welcome by the City of Wetumpka and Elmore County Commission*
- *Special Musical Number by St. James Family Worship Music Department*
- *History Presentation, Dr. Craig Sheldon*
- *Special Musical Number by Shape Note Singers*

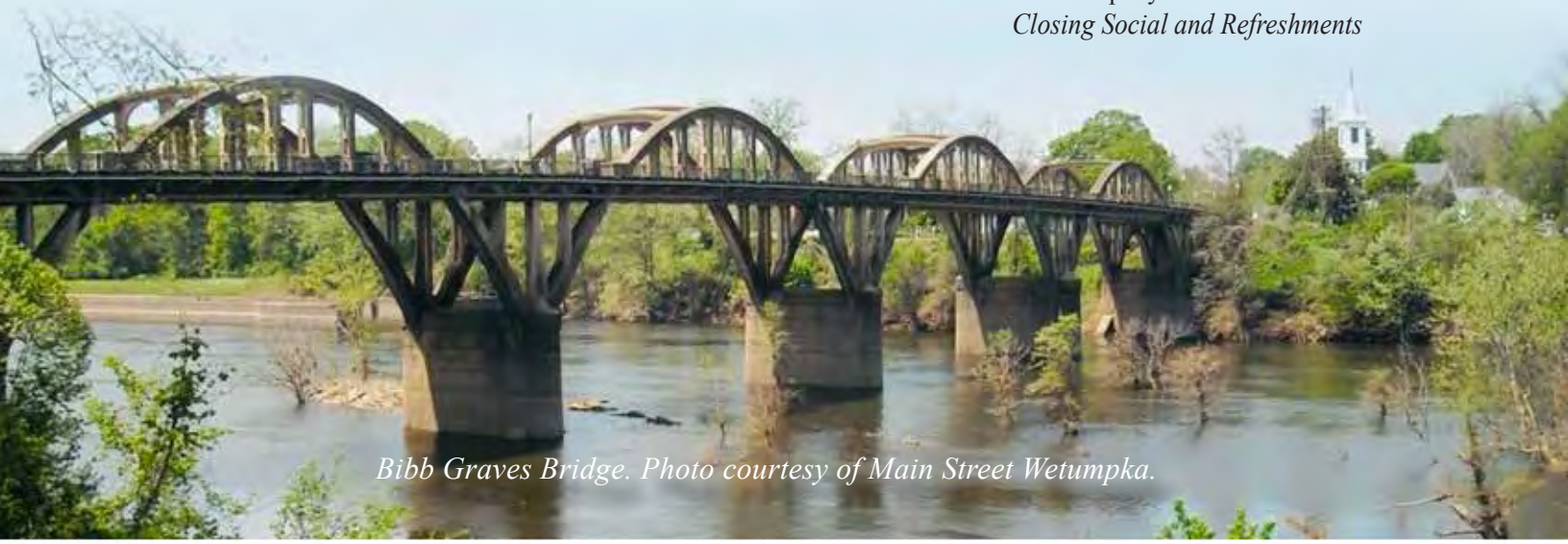
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 *Continued*

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. **First United Methodist Church**
306 W. Tuskeena Street
Lunch

1-5 p.m. **Tour Historic Site Locations**
- First United Methodist Church
 306 West Tuskeena Street (12:30-2)
- *L&N Depot*
 281 North Broad Street (12:30-2)
- First Baptist Church
 205 West Bridge Street
- First Presbyterian Church
 100 West Bridge Street
- Second Missionary Baptist Church
 760 North Bridge Street
- Guilefield First Baptist Church
 421 Company Street
- Elisha Milton Cain Home
 311 Government Street
- 1828 Plantation
 305 East Bridge Street
- Plantation Gardens
 805 West Tuskeena Street
- 1903 Farmhouse
 300 North Bridge Street
- Elmore County Training School/Black History Museum
 202 Lancaster Street
 Featuring Thread My Needle Quilt Group
 (site open 1-4 p.m.)

Closing Reception

5-6 p.m. **Tulotoma Snail Trail Alleyway Park**
113 Company Street
Closing Social and Refreshments



Bibb Graves Bridge. Photo courtesy of Main Street Wetumpka.



Special thanks to the Wetumpka AL200 Celebration Committee for the following summaries and Jenny Enslen Stubbs for the photographs.

ELMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

100 East Commerce Street

Completed in 1932 near the site of the county's previous 1884 courthouse, this historic structure is built in the Greek Revival style. The foundation is made of granite and concrete, and the exterior walls are limestone. Marble is also utilized for the interior.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

306 West Tuskeena Street

This church congregation was organized in 1819 and occupied two or three different locations before settling at its current location in 1843. The sanctuary that now exists was completed in 1854. The Lancaster Memorial Bell in the steeple was installed in May 1901, and in 1910, a pipe organ was installed.



L&N DEPOT

281 North Broad Street

The Louisville & Nashville Depot was built in Wetumpka in 1906 and exemplifies the L&N plan for small town depots. The station served as a passenger and freight depot until passenger service was terminated in the 1930s; freight service ended in 1973.

In 1975, the depot was purchased by the First United Methodist Church of Wetumpka and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places that same year. Today the space is used by the church for worship services, activities, and youth group meetings.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

205 West Bridge Street

First Baptist was organized in 1821 and was originally known as the Coosa River Baptist Church. Construction on the current sanctuary started in 1847 and ended in 1852. A redecoration of the space took place in 1909, and in 1929, Sunday School rooms and a pipe organ were added. Further additions were constructed around 1960, 1966 and 1991. In January 2019, an EF-2 tornado significantly damaged the church, particularly its historic sanctuary.



SECOND MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

760 North Bridge Street

Before the Civil War, both races worshipped in the Coosa River Baptist Church. However, after the Civil War and emancipation, the African American congregants asked to establish their own church, and a plot of land was donated. Although erected in 1887, a violent storm destroyed the building in 1899. Despite the devastation, members rallied and rebuilt the structure in the same year.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 West Bridge Street

This church congregation was founded in 1836, and in 1857, its first building was constructed. The original sanctuary was in the early Carpenter Gothic style and dedicated in 1857. Although the church flourished before the Civil War, its congregation was heavily impacted in 1861 when a significant number of the young men in its congregation left for war.

The church went through a restoration in 1933 and an educational wing was added in 1947. Other improvements were made in 1949, 1951 and 1956. In January 2019, the historic chapel was destroyed when an EF-2 tornado touched down.



GUILEFIELD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

421 Company Street

In 1869, Representative Thomas Williams donated this property to church members for a house of worship. Although the name has evolved over time, it was originally named "Gift Field" because it was a gift to the congregation.



ELISHA MILTON CAIN HOUSE

311 Government Street

Named in honor of the purchaser, Elisha Cain, this Greek Revival home was a gift to his daughter, Martha Cain Northrup, and her husband, John. After Martha died in 1847, there were various occupants over the years, including Alabama Women's Hall of Fame inductee Florence Golson Bateman, who lived in the space for nearly 50 years. Today, the home is owned by Jerry and Mae Eason.



1828 PLANTATION

305 East Bridge Street

This home is said to be an 1828 plantation home and sits on the east side of the river atop a high hill overlooking downtown and the river. The home was originally built by William Houghton, later a member of the Houghton and Mifflin Publishing Company. The Golson family, which started "The Wetumpka Herald" newspaper, later owned the home. There is a water tower made of rock that still stands on the property. This home is claimed to have the first wooden floors in Wetumpka, as well.



STORRS PLANTATION

805 W Tuskeena Street

First known as the Storrs Plantation and likely built around 1845, this house was on a homesite that initially extended all the way to the Coosa River. Seth Storrs, its original owner, was a prominent attorney and served as a state senator. The home was bought by John and Rebecca Thornton and extensively renovated in 1994. Inspired by the loss of their son, Rebecca cultivated a beautiful garden using traditionally Southern greenery. Today, the home is owned by Daniel Edwards.



HOWLE HOUSE

300 North Bridge Street

The Howle House was built by J. M. Howle, circa 1905. Howle owned a mercantile business in downtown Wetumpka with his brother E. A. Howle. The land was purchased by Mr. Howle and his wife, Jenny, from the Hohenberg family. Although extensively remodeled by future owners, the home still retains many of its original elements, including beautiful heart pine floors throughout the structure.



ELMORE COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL/BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

202 Lancaster Street

The training school, a brick and mortar structure, and the adjacent teachers' home, were constructed during the era of the Rosenwald School Building Program. When built in 1924, the school was the only high school for African American students in the area.

In 1986, through grassroots efforts, plans to demolish the structures were averted. The African American community worked with local officials to obtain grant funds to subsequently stabilize both structures. Since then, the school has been maintained through a cooperation between the City and the Elmore County Black Heritage Association and made an interpretive center housing African American collections and gathering place for groups desiring cultural enhancement.

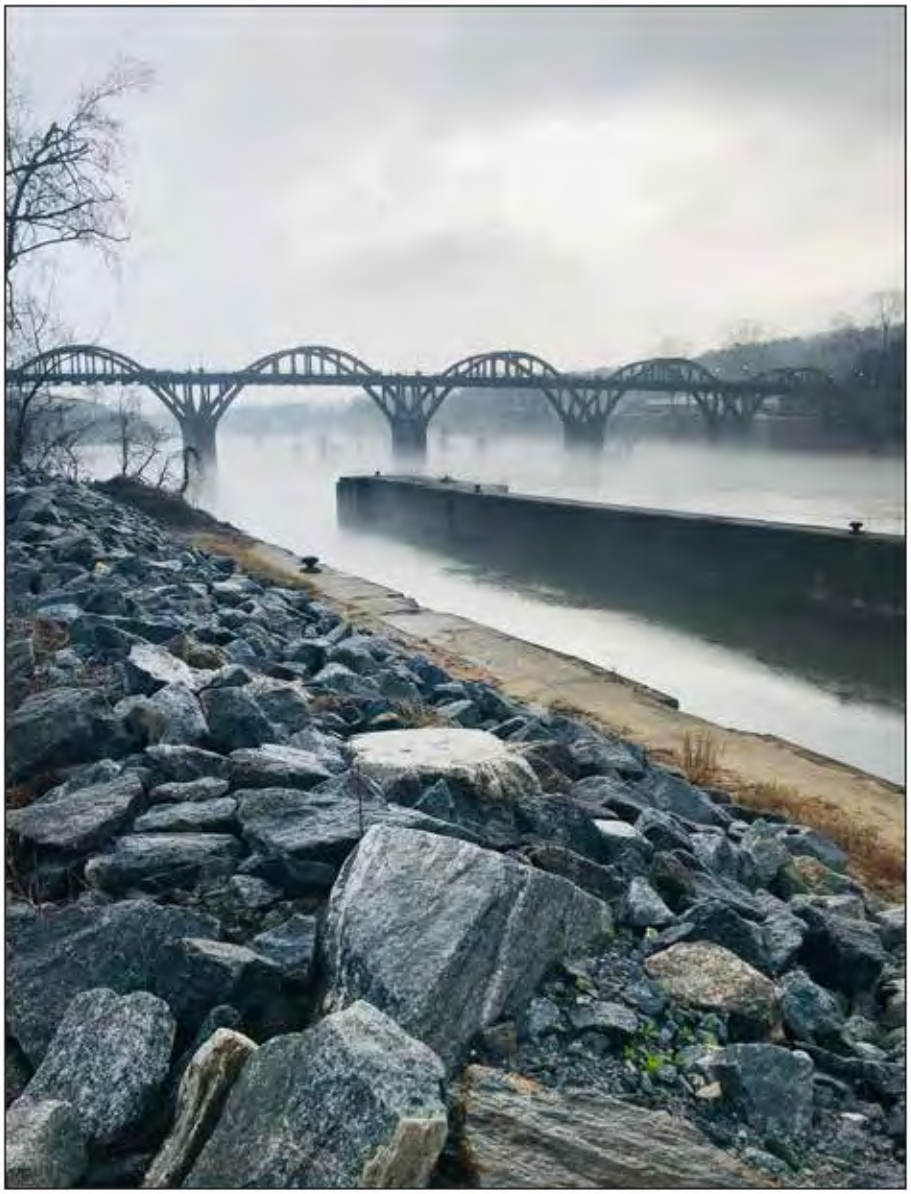




RODGERS CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH

609 West Bridge Street

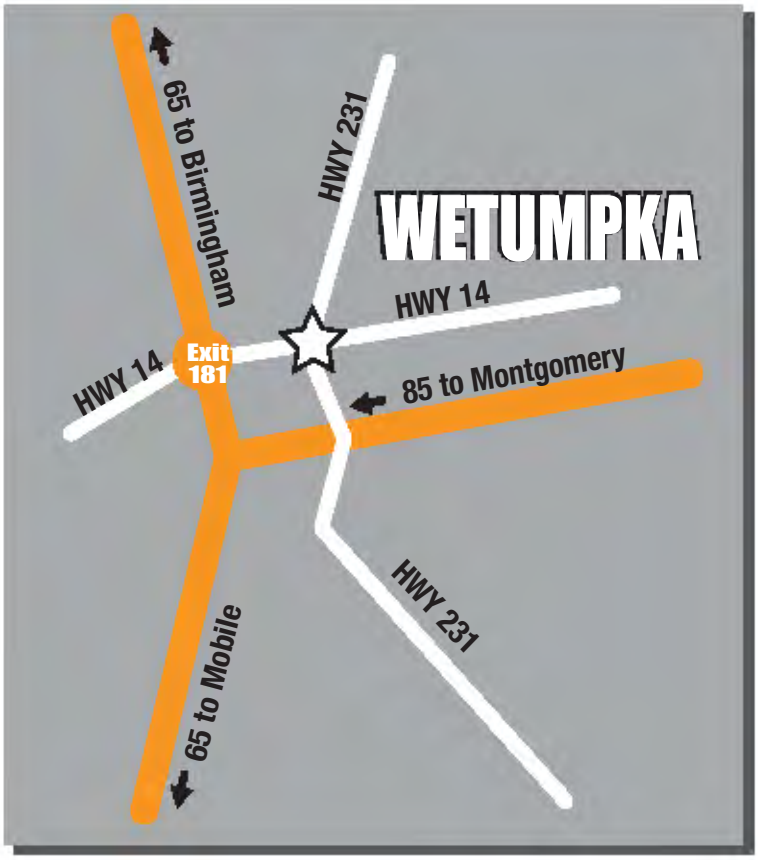
After emancipation, African Americans from the First United Methodist Church founded this congregation in 1863. After the first location was destroyed by a tornado, stones from the nearby Coosa River were hauled to this location to form the current church's foundation. The wooden framed church was dedicated in 1902 in honor of its beloved pastor. In 1965, the building was bricked and the entrance moved. *This site will not be on tour*.



LOCK 31

Lock 31 was the last lock in a series of 31 locks and dams, an 1889 project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of the project was to aid the travel of steamboats traversing the series of rapids starting as far north as Rome, Georgia, and ending with the treacherous "Devil's Staircase" in Wetumpka. Due to the advent of trains, high costs of the project, the impending Spanish-American War, and continual setbacks, construction of the lock ended in 1896. The lock was never completed or put into use. The only addition to Lock 31 was made by Alabama Power in the late 20th century, when a water level measuring gauge was installed. *This site will not be on tour.*

The Hampton Inn
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Special Rate: $99 per night
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www.alabamahistory.net/meetings



Friday, October 11, 2019

1 Elmore County Museum
112 S. Main Street
Making Alabama: A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit

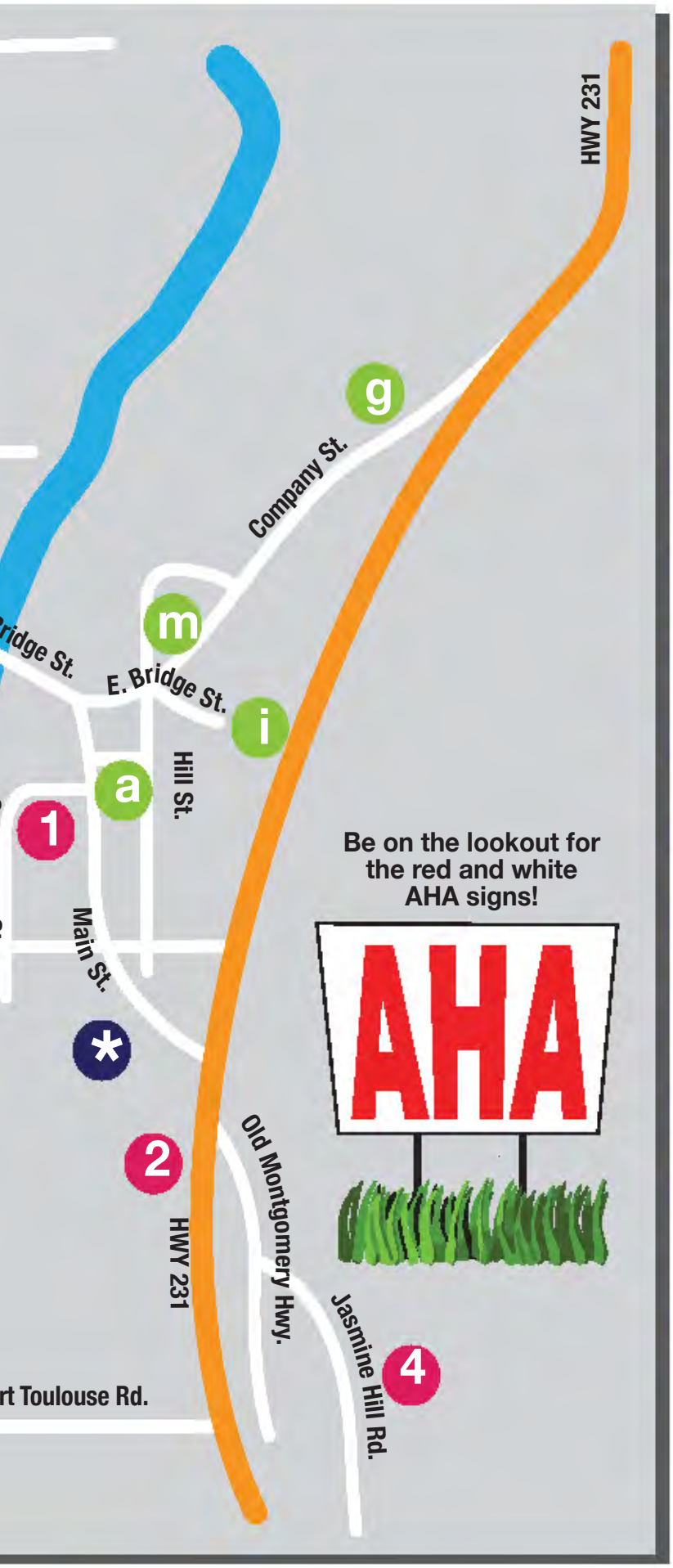
2 Trinity Episcopal Church
5375 U.S. Hwy 231

3 Fort Toulouse - Fort Jackson State Park
2521 W. Fort Toulouse Road
$2 per person

4 Jasmine Hill Gardens & Outdoor Museum
3001 Jasmine Hill Road

4 Fitzpatrick Home
Jasmine Hill Gardens & Outdoor Museum
3001 Jasmine Hill Road
Reception Location





Saturday, October 12, 2019

a HISTORIC ELMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
100 E. Commerce Street
Registration, Coffee, Muffins, Book Sales, and Program

b First United Methodist Church
306 W. Tuskeena Street
Lunch

c L&N Depot
281 North Broad Street

d First Baptist Church
205 West Bridge Street

e First Presbyterian Church
100 West Bridge Street

f Second Missionary Baptist Church
760 North Bridge Street

g Guilefield First Baptist Church
421 Company Street

h Elisha Milton Cain Home
311 Government Street

i 1828 Plantation
305 East Bridge Street

j Plantation Gardens
805 West Tuskeena Street

k Howle House
300 North Bridge Street

l Elmore County Training School & Black History Museum
202 Lancaster Street
Thread My Needle Quilt Group 1-4pm

m Tulotoma Snail Trail Alleyway Park
113 Company Street
Closing Social & Refreshments

Please don't rely on the scale of this map for navigation.

Scan this QR code for access to the Google Map.

Congratulations to the following award winners!

Special thanks to Laura Hill, photographer.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM AWARD

The Historical Museum Award recognizes excellence for large and small projects that make contributions to promulgating Alabama (state or local) history. The winner of the 2019 award was the Tallapoosee Historical Museum in Dadeville. *Photo: President Valerie Burnes and Danny Hayes.*



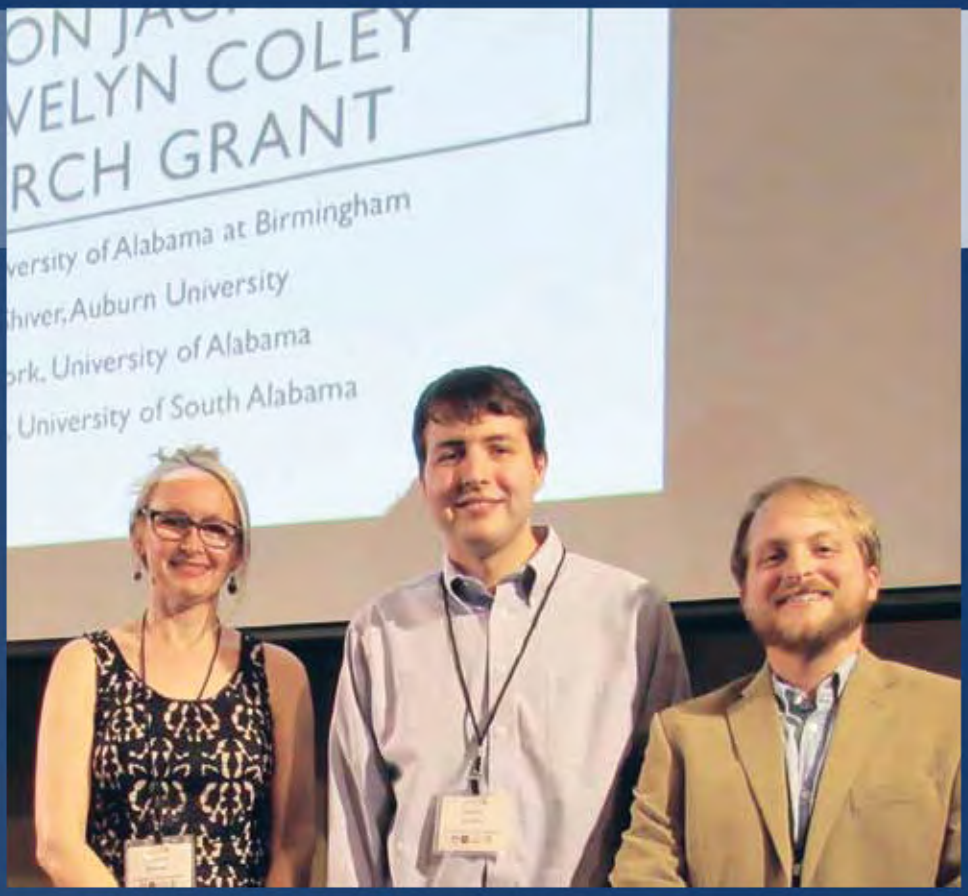


JAMES F. SULZBY AWARD

The James F. Sulzby Award recognizes excellence in a book published in the previous two years that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and appreciation of Alabama history. Drs. Susan Youngblood and Lisa Lindquist-Dorr received the 2019 award for their anthology *Alabama Women: Their Lives and Times. Photo: Dan Puckett, Susan Youngblood, Lisa Lindquist-Dorr.*

CLINTON JACKSON AND EVELYN COLEY AWARD

In honor of the state's bicentennial, four graduate student research awards were given to Tammy Blue, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Joshua Shiver, Auburn University; Spencer York, University of Alabama; and Justin Zimlich, University of South Alabama. *Photo: President Valerie Burnes, Justin Zimlich, Spencer York.*





VIRGINIA V. HAMILTON AWARD

The Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton Award is given based upon contributions to Alabama history which encourage joint endeavors and mutual understanding among nonprofessional and professional historians. The 2019 recipient was Frazine Taylor. *Photo: Laura Anderson, Frazine Taylor.*

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CALL FOR PAPERS

73rd Annual Meeting
Florence, Alabama
April 2-4, 2020

The Alabama Historical Association invites paper proposals to be given at its 73rd annual meeting in Florence, Alabama, on April 2-4, 2020. This meeting is open to scholars, educators, public historians, students, local historians, and members of the general public who share an interest in the history of Alabama from its founding through modern times.

Proposals must include a one-page abstract of a 20-minute presentation on an Alabama history topic and a curriculum vitae or résumé that includes the author's email address, postal address, telephone number, and academic or organizational affiliation (if any). Proposals should also indicate if the presenter will require any technical equipment (projectors, sound equipment, etc.)

Proposals must be submitted by October 1, 2019. Electronic submissions are preferred.

All presenters are required to register for the conference and be members in good standing of the Alabama Historical Association by the time of the annual meeting. The committee gives preference to presenters who have not given papers at an annual meeting within the past three years.

Please submit your proposal to the program chair:

Mike Bunn
Director, Historic Blakeley State Park
P.O. Box 7279
Spanish Fort, AL 36577
251-626-0798
director@blakeleypark.com

alabamahistory.net
@AlabamaHistory
@AL_history

2020 NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2020 AWARDS

The following awards will be presented at the annual meeting in Florence on April 3, 2020.

- The **Clinton Jackson Coley Book Award** goes to the best book or pamphlet focusing on local historical concerns, including but not limited to the history of an Alabama community, town or county, or any institution therein. Works published since January 2018 are eligible, and those written by non-professional historians are welcome. Nominations must be postmarked by December 31, 2019. For submission information, contact E. E. (Skip) Campbell at eecampbell@ccs.ua.edu.

- The **James Ray Kuykendall Award** honors a local historical society in Alabama for outstanding achievements and for significant contributions to a greater appreciation of community and state history. Any historical society is eligible to apply, provided it has not received the award in the last fifteen years. For a copy of the application/nomination form, visit www.alabamahistory.net or Felisha Anderson at fanderson@baldwincountyal.gov.

- The **Digital History Award** recognizes projects that deliver information on Alabama's past using the Internet and social media tools. Both large and small projects will be awarded, and a full description of the award can be found at www.alabamahistory.net. For more information, contact Rebecca Minder at rminder@uapress.ua.edu.

For more information on all of these awards, visit www.alabamahistory.net.

The AHA would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support!

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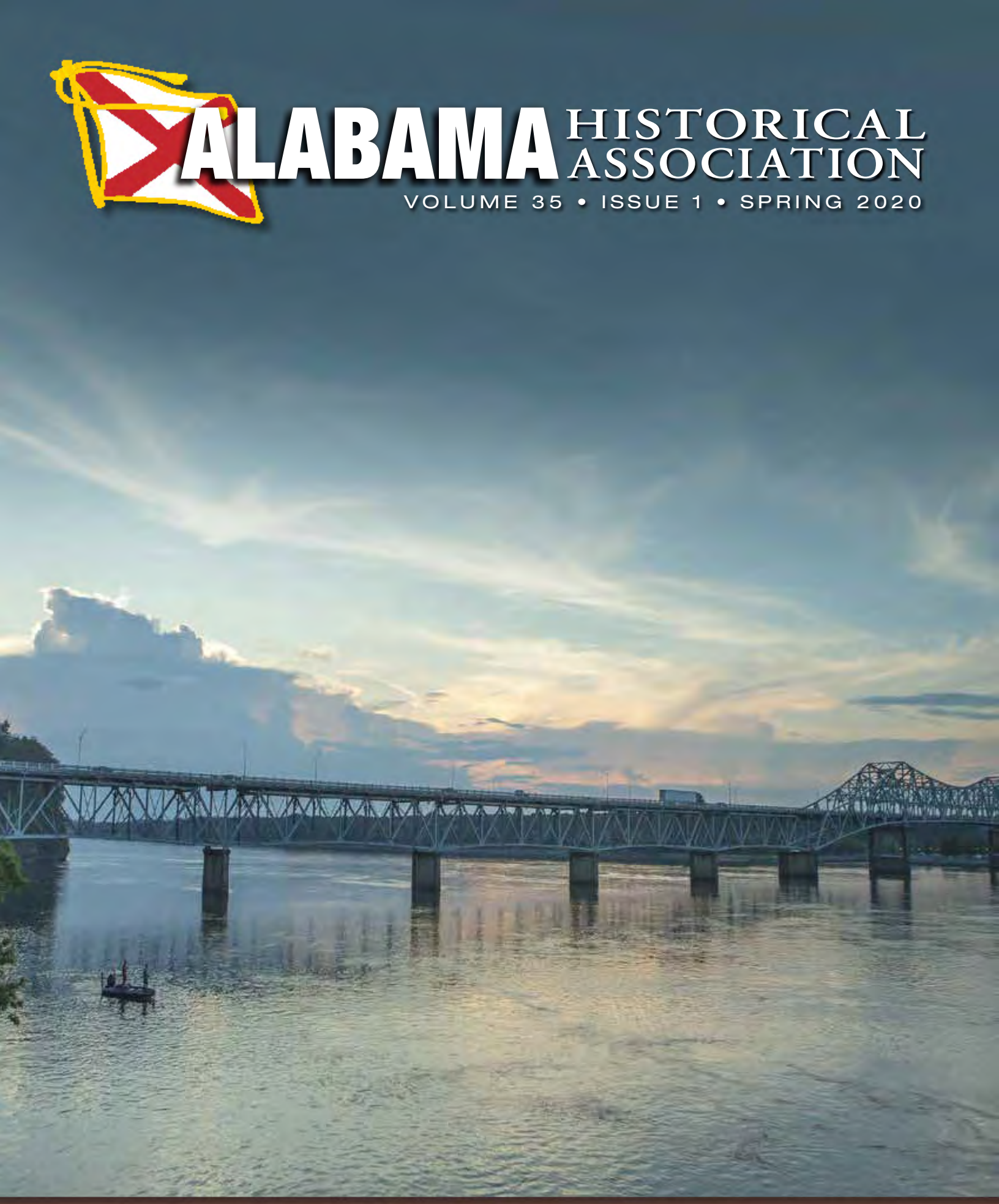
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APRIL 2-4, 2020, FLORENCE, ALABAMA

Reserve your hotel room at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa for the special rate of $129 per night by calling 1-800-593-6450. Visit www.alabamahistory.net/meetings to book online.

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 35 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2020



73rd Annual Meeting | April 2-4, 2020 | Florence, Alabama

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Cover Photo: Tennessee River, Courtesy Chris Granger

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Founded in 1947, the Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.



Frazine Taylor

Kudos goes to Main Street Wetumpka for organizing this year's informative Pilgrimage. We had a fabulous time exploring Wetumpka's rich history from the Fitzpatrick home, Jasmine Hills Gardens and Outdoor Museum, Fort Toulouse to the Tulotoma Snail Trail Alleyway Park, and all places in-between. Food, weather, accommodations, tours, and more were excellent. Thanks to the Mayor, City Council, County Commissioners, City Staff, and Volunteers, who made the Pilgrimage a great success in my hometown of Wetumpka. They made my city look good and showcased Wetumpka's historical assets to the attendees.

Now let us turn our attention to Florence and the (Muscle Shoals sounds) located in Colbert County, Alabama, for the 73rd Annual Meeting, April 2-4, 2020, and its historical significance to our state's history. Known throughout the music industry for its unique sound and the depth of its musical talent, Muscle Shoals leaves its mark on Alabama. In the song "Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynyrd Skynyrd, a verse states: "Muscle Shoals has got the Swampers." However, we also want to pay tribute to significant people and the history of a few cities in the area, Sheffield, Tuscumbia, Florence, Leighton, St. Florian, Underwood-Petersville, Killen, Littleville, Town Creek and Russellville, Alabama. The W. C. Handy museum, Fame and other recording studios, Julia Tutwiler's home, other historical homes, Indian Museum, and Pope's Tavern are just a few of the historical sites that you will have a chance to explore in connection with the meeting.

We are pleased to welcome as our Friday night Banquet Keynote Speaker Dr. Jonathan Rieder, professor of sociology at Barnard College and Columbia University, who will discuss Muscle Shoals music and its relationship to civil rights and treat us with examples of various music genres in his discussion. For more information about Dr. Rieder, see page 22. We are happy to have him as our keynote speaker.

As a family historian, I have studied over the past the connection of families to each other and historical events surrounding them. I have come to realize that our families are all connected. No family lives isolated from their neighbors or communities, whatever the ethical makeup, and that is why we, as a history organization, must put forth a concerted effort to tell our communities diverse history. We are striving to continue to do this at our annual pilgrimages and meetings. Therefore, let me see you in Florence to have your input in keeping these efforts alive!

The Mariott Shoals Hotel & Conference Center will serve as the main venue for the meeting, so book your hotel room early and let's have a good time exploring the diverse history of the area.

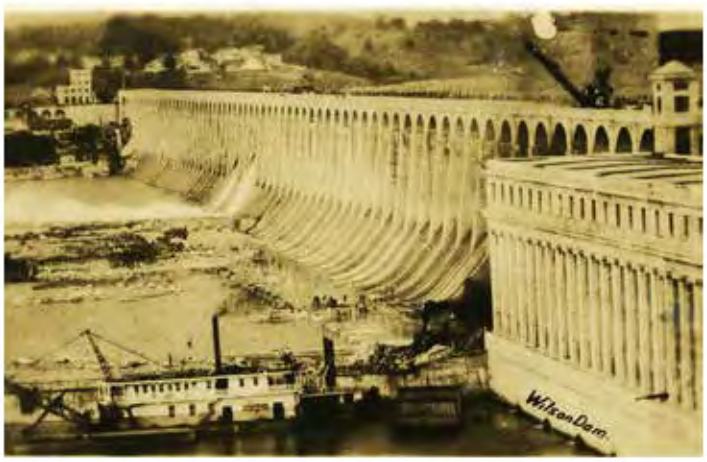
Frazine K. Taylor
President

FLORENCE:
Discovering Alabama's Renaissance City

By Carolyn M. Barske Crawford

Perched on the banks of the Tennessee River just below the once-formidable Muscle Shoals sits Florence, Alabama. Founded in 1818 by the Cypress Land Company, Florence quickly became a stable and thriving community. Crisscrossing transportation networks helped make Florence part of a much larger world. Andrew Jackson's Military Road and the Natchez Trace connected the residents of Florence to Nashville, New Orleans, Chattanooga, and other points far distant from northwest Alabama. Alongside the town flows the Tennessee River, which, more than any other factor, has helped to shape Florence over the past two centuries.

Long before white settlers arrived in the area that would become Florence, many different American Indian communities had made their homes along the river's banks for thousands of years. In the early 1700s, the Cherokees and Chickasaws came to dominate the area. European explorers realized the potential of the river to shape trade networks in the late seventeenth century, though large numbers of white traders did not push into the area until the 1780s. Permanent settlers followed the traders. By the early 1800s, much of the soil in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia had been stripped of its nutrients because of over cultivation. Farmers moved west into what would become Alabama and Mississippi, looking for new and more fertile lands. Soon the number of white settlers living illegally on native lands grew. The US government had purchased the land that would make up the state of Alabama from Georgia in 1803, but much of the land in the north offcially remained under the control of the Cherokees and Chickasaws. In 1806, the Cherokees gave up most (but not all) of their lands between the Duck and Tennessee Rivers to the US government. However, the Chickasaws retained control of their land. This did not stop the flood of settlers from moving into Chickasaw territory; by 1810 between four to five thousand white settlers had moved into northwest Alabama. The government tried to stop this rush, sending in troops from 1809 to 1811 to drive all illegal settlers out. This attempt to prevent haphazard and illegal settlement was not successful in the long run. By 1816 the Chickasaws had also ceded most of their land to the US government



Wilson Dam. Courtesy of University of North Alabama Archives and Special Collections.



Tennessee River. Courtesy of Florence-Lauderdale Tourism.



Old courthouse, 1822-1900, Florence, Ala. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Wilson Park. Courtesy of University of North Alabama Archives and Special Collections.

(giving the remainder up by 1819), and in 1817 the Cherokees relinquished the rest of their land.

While many members of the native communities remained in the area during the early years of settlement of northwest Alabama, the physical presence of native peoples on the landscape largely faded because of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. In fact, Tuscumbia Landing, across the river from Florence, became one of the major disembarkation points for the removal. After thousands of years living and farming in the river valley, the US government removed most native people to the Indian Territory in what is present-day Oklahoma.

The men and women who came to settle in what would become Florence recognized the value of both the land and the location, as had the people whom they displaced. In March 1818, the Cypress Land Company formed in Huntsville to organize the settlement of this important location. The members of the Cypress Land Company included Gens. Andrew Jackson and John Coffee (both heroes of the War of 1812), future Supreme Court Justice John McKinley, and Irish immigrant James Jackson. When advertising the sale of the lands, the Cypress Land Company told potential buyers that the new community would have a high chance of success, as "at the lower end of the Muscle Shoals, there must, in the natural course of things spring up one of the largest commercial towns in the interior of the southwestern section of the Union."

By the time the company was formed in 1818, Andrew Jackson and Coffee already had surveyed potential locations for the new town. The area they chose had several advantages. First, Andrew Jackson's Military Road ran through the prospective site, connecting Nashville to New Orleans. Second, the site sat about one hundred feet above the river, which Jackson and Coffee believed would make the community less susceptible to the "night airs" that caused so much sickness in low-lying communities (although disease-carrying mosquitos were the true culprits). Third, the site sat at the base of the Muscle Shoals, which ran for forty miles with an average drop of three and a half feet per mile. While the shoals made transport eastward along the river a challenge, to the northwest, the river connected Florence to the Ohio River, which then fed into the Mississippi River.

Unlike the founders of many frontier towns that sprang up in a haphazard fashion, the members of the Cypress Land Company carefully laid out the town out ahead of the first land sale. Coffee worked with Italian surveyor Ferdinand Sannoner and engineer Hunter Peel to design the new community. The design the men developed included large lots for residential and commercial purposes (almost half an acre in most cases), as well as land set aside for a college, a female seminary, a



Inset of John La Tourette's 1837 "An Accurate Map of the State of Alabama and West Florida." Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Historic Marker Downtown. Courtesy of Florence-Lauderdale Tourism.

courthouse, a jail, and a "public walk" (now Wilson Park).

The first land sale took place on July 22, 1818. Some of the more well-known Cypress Company trustees, including Andrew Jackson, James Jackson, Coffee, and McKinley, purchased many lots—some of them intending to make Florence their home. Commercial firms purchased land for a stable, a tavern, and a cotton factory. Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist congregations also purchased land. Soon, downtown Florence bustled with activity. Trade picked up rapidly, and firms used the river to move cotton, liquor, lumber, and many other resources and crops out of the area. Large warehouses for goods brought from the north also appeared along the river as Florence became a distribution point for goods across the southwestern frontier. While Florence was certainly civilized compared to some of its frontier counterparts, it was still a frontier community and was plagued by many of the same problems other communities far from civilization faced—including outlaws. In the 1830s one such outlaw, the notorious slave kidnapper John Murrell, was captured in Florence.

While cotton plantations and other agricultural endeavors did not dominate the economy of Florence as completely as they did in other parts of Alabama, plantations did appear on the landscape, and on those plantations enslaved persons labored. Enslaved people also lived within the city limits—working as both skilled and unskilled laborers. Dred Scott, whose Supreme Court case Dred Scott v. Sandford was heard in 1857 and was one of the main contributing factors to the start of the Civil War, was enslaved by the Blow family in Florence in the 1820s. One of the earliest African American churches in the state of Alabama, Church Springs Church, was founded in Florence in 1837. After the Civil War, the church would be the site of a school established by the Freedman's Bureau, which would eventually transition into Burrell Normal School in 1903.

In 1855, the educational opportunities in Florence expanded dramatically when the state of Alabama chartered Florence Wesleyan University. The school, originally named LaGrange College—established by the Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Memphis Conference of the Methodist Church—had been located to the southeast of Florence in Leighton, Alabama. In 1830, the State of Alabama had issued the first charter for the establishment of a university to LaGrange College, making it the oldest chartered institution of higher learning in the state. In 1856, Wesleyan Hall, designed by architect Adolphus Heiman and constructed by enslaved people under the supervision of Florence builder and contractor Zebulon Pike Morrison, became the college's permanent home. The move helped to turn Florence into the cultural center of northwest Alabama, drawing students and faculty from across the country. The school remained open in some form or another during the Civil War. After the war's conclusion, the school, like many across the South, struggled financially. In 1871, the doors of Florence Wesleyan closed. The next year the State of Alabama took over the college, and Florence Normal School became the first teachers college south of the Ohio River. The school began to admit women in 1874, making it the first co-educational teacher training college in the country. The college continued to grow and change into the twentieth century. In 1929 the school became a four-year state teachers college, and in 1956 it began offering graduate courses in education. After a 1963 court order, the college began the process of integration, admitting Wendell Willkie Gunn as the school's first African American student.

Early residents of Florence also encouraged industrial development. Unlike many antebellum southern communities, Florence had a decidedly industrial element to its economy. The banks of the creeks and the river provided perfect locations for factories and mills. Prior to the Civil War, Florence was home to the largest textile mill in the state of Alabama, the Globe Factory. There were also wool carding mills, gristmills, sawmills, a brick factory, tanneries, foundries, machine shops, and gun factories. While most of these industrial sites were destroyed during the Civil War, many rebuilt after the war's conclusion. During the 1880s and 1890s, Florence underwent a second industrial revolution. The establishment of new companies—including the Florence Land and Mining Company; Florence Coal, Coke and Iron; and Florence Wagon Works—led one observer to state in 1888 that "Florence is the coming city of the south as to manufacturing." As a result, the population exploded, jumping from 1,359 in 1880 to 6,012 in 1890.To facilitate further growth, the Tennessee River needed to be tamed. Left to nature, the river wreaked havoc during floods, and the shoals made transportation eastward practically impossible. One solution to getting around the Muscle Shoals was the Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur Railroad, the first rail line west of the Appalachian Mountains, completed in 1834. However, one railroad could not completely solve the problem.



Train on railroad bridge over Tennessee River near Florence. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



Trolley across Tennessee River. Courtesy of University of North Alabama Archives and Special Collections.

Engineers determined that three canals would be necessary to make the river navigable. In 1831, the US government gave the State of Alabama 400,000 acres of land to sell to finance the construction of these canals. While the first phase of project was completed in 1836, the canal and lock system were full of problems. Boats could not enter the canal in times of low water, and the wooden lock gates warped or rotted. Construction, this time under the direction of the federal government, began anew in 1875. By 1888, the project still was not completed, and George Washington Goethals, who would later go on to oversee the construction of the Panama Canal, was brought in to complete the project. Goethals proved successful, and the new canal opened in 1890.

While the new canal provided a better route across the shoals, and another canal constructed at the Colbert Shoals in 1911 made the river easier to travel, the Muscle Shoals were not truly tamed until the construction of Wilson Dam. The building of Wilson Dam was part of the US government's defense plan during World War I. As American leaders began to prepare for war, one of their main concerns was ready access to nitrates, necessary for both the production of fertilizer and gun powder. The bulk of the world's supply of nitrates came from Chile, and leaders feared the supply could be cut off. Prior to WWI, the Germans had developed a process to manufacture nitrates by producing ammonia from coal. To produce nitrates in this manner required a great deal of power, and to generate this power, the US government had to build a hydroelectric dam on a powerful river. The Muscle Shoals were chosen as the best site for such a dam, and construction of the dam, two nitrate plants, and two power-generating steam plants were approved. Workers began to flood into Florence, Tuscumbia, and Sheffeld in August 1918, taxing the resources of all the communities.

Construction of the dam began in 1918, not long before the armistice ending the war was signed. However, construction of the dam continued, lasting for six more years. When the dam was completed on September 12, 1925, it was the largest dam in the world. With the war long over, the looming question was what to do with the dam, which had cost taxpayers more than $130 million to build. In 1921, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison visited Florence to view the construction site and proposed using the power generated by the dam to turn the seventy-five-mile stretch between Florence and Huntsville into an industrial corridor. Ford's proposal was denied by the US Senate, who worried about the repercussions of putting a publicly funded project in the hands of a private corporation.



A pleasures steamer From Cincinnati at Muscle Shoals Dock. Courtesy of Alabama Department of Archives and History.



FDR visit to Florence, 1933. Courtesy of Florence-Lauderdale Public Library Digital Collections.

In 1933, when Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt took offce and founded the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the dam gained a true purpose. Florence had suffered greatly during the early years of the Great Depression. The founding of the TVA on May 18, 1933 began to turn things around for the Shoals region and the Tennessee River Valley as a whole. The main goals of the TVA included the production of fertilizer, rural electrification, the eradication of malaria, and aiding the farmers of the Tennessee River Valley with learning more sustainable farming practices that would improve the quality of their land and help fight soil erosion. As part of the plan, more dams were to be constructed.

Work began on Wheeler Dam, sixteen miles north of Wilson Dam, on November 21, 1933. Construction of Pickwick Dam, located fifty-two miles below Wilson Dam, began on March 8, 1935. Other New Deal projects helped put the residents of Florence back to work and continue to benefit the community today. The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed trails and a pavilion on the TVA reservation. On the campus of UNA, the Works Progress Administration built Willingham Hall, the Stone Lodge, Collier Library, and the president's home. Florence and the rest of the Shoals region found their economies slowly revived. Once again, the river proved central to the success of Florence.

As the Tennessee River flowed along its southern edge, the city of Florence continued to grow and develop throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Barges can be seen both above and below the dam, carrying goods to people along the Tennessee River far from Florence. The University of North Alabama plays a central role in the life of the community, still acting as a cultural center as it did in the nineteenth century when it began its life in Florence as Florence Wesleyan. The river still connects the city with a world far beyond its borders. A thriving downtown full of businesses, a public arts and museum system, a symphony, theaters, and a large public library show the dedication Florence residents have to supporting the same goals the founders of Florence had for the city they founded almost two hundred years ago. Florence truly is "Alabama's Renaissance City."

Carolyn M. Barske Crawford is the director of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area and an affiliated faculty member in the UNA Department of History. *Special thanks to* Alabama Heritage *for allowing us to reprint a version of the article that appeared in the Winter 2015 issue of AH.*



Downtown Florence. Courtesy of Florence-Lauderdale Tourism.









VILLAGE ONE

U.S. Nitrate Plant Village One, or "Village One," is a residential neighborhood in Sheffield, Alabama of both national and local historic interest regarding military history, landscape design, industry, and architecture.

Village One is a Garden City development designed by Mann & MacNeille Architects in 1917 to house the U.S. Army Ordnance Department overseeing the construction and operation of nearby U.S. Nitrate Plant Number One. Prior to entering World War 1, U.S. production of ammonium nitrate for munitions was in its infancy. The experimental Nitrate One was the first production facility in the country.

A unique landscape feature of Village One is the 9-acre commons and streetscape shaped like the Liberty Bell, the Liberty Bell being a prominent patriotic symbol during the Great War. Here the roadways come together to form the hanger, the bell, the clapper, and the crack of Americas most famous bell.

Village One houses were built in the craftsman bungalow style and range in 14 different sizes and styles plus flipped floorplans create variety in street views. Exteriors were clad in white stucco and roofed in matching terra cotta tile, giving the neighborhood the feel of a quaint European Village in Northwest Alabama. Being an occupied government facility from 1918 to 1949, much of Village One remains intact as it was originally constructed and designed.

Thursday's 1:00 p.m. tour will begin at the Village One Schoolhouse.

Photos and guided tour courtesy of the The Village One School Foundation.



WILLIAM R. JULIAN HOME circa 1820

104 North Dickson Street, Tuscumbia, Alabama
Open Thursday, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The main part of this house was originally built near Cherokee and is said to have been floated on the Tennessee River to Tuscumbia Landing and pulled by oxen to its present site. The originally detached brick kitchen remains, now included as part of the house-structure by an enclosed passageway. The large fireplace with arm for cooking and the kitchen's original brick floor are still in place. The structure is a two-story clapboard (referred to as an "I" house), put together with wooden pegs and square nails and floored with wide pine boards. The original woodwork is handmade and the foundation timbers and ceiling beams are hand hewn, fashioned from whole trees. The date of construction is not certain, but it is considered to be similar to early Virginia townhouses. William Reese Julian (1822-1889) lived in Tuscumbia from childhood. A veteran of the Mexican-American War and the Civil War, Julian served two terms as sheriff of Colbert County and postmaster of Tuscumbia. Julian was married to Elizabeth Melissa Croxton.

The home has been occupied by members of the Julian family since its location in Tuscumbia (seven generations), and it is currently owned by Richard and Ninon Parker, the great-great-granddaughter of Captain Julian.



Photo courtesy of the George F. Landegger Collection of Alabama Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 N. Dickson Street, Tuscumbia

St. John's will be open for tours from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

St. John's Episcopal Church in Tuscumbia is Alabama's oldest church built in the Carpenter Gothic style. Parishioners first used the building in October 1852 and completed construction the following year. During the Civil War, federal troops used the structure to stable horses. In 1874, a tornado was responsible for extensive damages, and the building was reinforced with iron rods. Concrete buttresses were installed in 1956. The church contains original stained-glass windows, furnishing, and a pump organ. St. John's is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

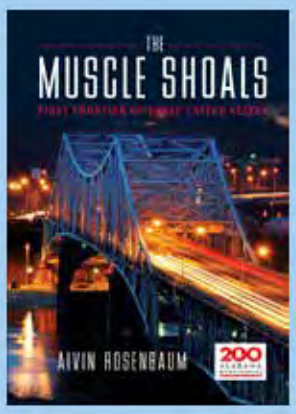
Photo courtesy of Alabama Mountain Lakes, Charles Seifried.

RECEPTION TO FEATURE LOCAL AUTHORS IN HISTORIC ROGERS HALL

The opening reception of the 73rd annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association will be held in historic Rogers Hall on the campus of the University of North Alabama on Thursday, April 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. The reception is co-sponsored by the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area and the History Department of the University of North Alabama.



Local planter George Washington Foster constructed Rogers Hall, originally named Courtview, in 1855 at the summit of Court Street. The Foster family occupied Courtview until 1900, when it became the home of Alabama Gov. Emmet O'Neal. In the 1920s, the residence was acquired by Thomas M. Rogers, Sr., and in 1948 by the university.



Authors of local histories will be on hand to sell and sign books. Please email alabamahistory@gmail.com if you have a local history book and would like to participate.

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Photos of Rogers Hall courtesy of University of North Alabama.



BELLE MONT MANSION

1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia



Belle Mont Mansion, built circa 1828, is one of the few examples of Palladian-style houses in Alabama. This design is derived from the neoclassical architectural style of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. Although the original architect and builder remain unknown, the style of Belle Mont appears also to have been influenced by past U.S. President and architect Thomas Jefferson.

Belle Mont was originally built for Alexander Williams Mitchell, who grew up in Louisa County, Virginia. A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, he was a physician, planter, and an early elected official of Franklin (present-day Colbert) County, where he settled around 1820 and built the house as the centerpiece of his large cotton plantation. In 1832, Mitchell put Belle Mont up for sale and eventually moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. An advertisement appearing in a Huntsville newspaper described "a brick dwelling house," 76 feet across the front, along with "all the necessary houses." The advertisement also noted Belle Mont's 1,760 acres which were planted in clover, grass, corn, and cotton and included an orchard. Belle Mont was purchased from Dr. Mitchell by Isaac and Catherine Winston, whose family held the house and property for more than a century.

The Alabama Historical Commission owns Belle Mont, and the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, Inc. operates the site.

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Photo courtesy of the George F. Landegger Collection of Alabama Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.





FAME STUDIOS

603 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals

NOTE: Guided tour available at 4 pm on Friday, but tour admission is not included in the AHA registration fee. Please be prepared to pay the $10 admission fee at the door.

Florence Alabama Music Enterprises (FAME) Recording Studios was established in 1959 by producer Rick Hall and was once the home of the session musician group the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section. FAME played a large role in creating the "Muscle Shoals sound" of country, blues, rock, and soul that was popularized by producer Rick Hall, the list of artists who have recorded with FAME is an index to American music history: Aretha Franklin, Clarence Carter, Little Richard, Etta James, Otis Redding, the Osmonds, Jerry Reed, Alabama, Mac Davis, the Gatlin Brothers, Bobbie Gentry, The Gregg Allman Band, Third Day, Vince Gill, Alison Krauss, John Paul White, St. Paul & the Broken Bones, Jason Isbell, and the Civil Wars, just to name a few. For Saturday tour times, visit www.famestudios.com.

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Exterior photo courtesy of FAME Studios; Interior photo courtesy of Chris Granger.

INDIAN MOUND AND MUSEUM

1028 South Court Street, Florence

The Indian Mound and Museum preserves the site of an ancient earthen mound built by Native Americans of the Woodland Period, approximately 2,000 years ago. The mound is located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Florence, and is the largest Indian mound in the Tennessee River Valley.

The mound is an earthen four-sided structure with a base measuring 310 by 230 feet and a summit that rises 43 feet and measures approximately 145 by 95 feet on top. The mound was once surrounded by an





earthen wall, which likely reached 12 to 15 feet high. The first historical mention of the mound is found on an 1818 map created by Ferdinand Sannoner, Hunter Peel, and Gen. John Coffee when laying out the city of Florence. In 1968, the city of Florence established the Indian Mound Museum adjacent to the site to exhibit artifacts recovered during archaeological excavations of the mound. The museum closed in March 2015 and was replaced with a much larger facility in 2017.

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Text courtesy of Encyclopedia of Alabama. Museum photo courtesy Christi Williams Britten. Mound photo courtesy of the George F. Landegger Collection of Alabama Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

KARSNER-KENNEDY HOUSE

301 N. Pine Street, Florence

The Karsner-Kennedy House was constructed from 1828 to 1831 for Benjamin F. Karsner (1800-1897), a Justice of the Peace, Tax Assessor, and Commission Merchant of Florence. The two-story Federal Style cottage, uncommon to the area, was situated on Lot No. 7 according to the original plat of Florence as drawn by the Cypress Land Company. The house had 13-inch brick load-bearing exterior walls, broad pine plank floors and wood ceiling and roof framing. The main chimney was an integral part of the wall and not projected on the exterior. The house was remodeled several times before complete restoration to its original style in the early 1970s. In all modifications, the original structure of brick and wood remained basically unchanged. Throughout its long history, the house has stood as one of the finest examples of Federal Style domestic architecture in the Tennessee Valley. In 1971, it



became the second local entry, after Wilson Dam, and the 17th Alabama entry to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Downtown Florence Alliance maintains the house today.

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Photo courtesy of Downtown Florence Alliance.

MUSCLE SHOALS SOUND STUDIO

3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield

NOTE: Guided tours available every half hour until 3:30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, but tour admission is not included in the AHA registration fee. Please be prepared to pay the $15 admission fee at the door.

The Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section opened the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio in 1969, the only recording studio owned and operated by the session musicians. Known as "The Swampers," the Studio's first release was Cher's debut solo album titled 3614 Jackson Highway, and the cover features the title superimposed over the façade of the building, inspiring the now iconic sign. The Studio remained at the Jackson Highway location for nine years, and during that time, the Swampers played on over 200 albums, with over 75 RIAA Gold and Platinum Records, and hundreds of hit songs with artists Lynyrd Skynrd, Bob Dylan, Duane Allman, Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Seger, Rod Stewart, Willie Nelson and more. By 1978, the Studio moved to a larger building on Alabama Avenue in Sheffield, and the original location became a retail facility before



falling into disrepair. A local citizen reopened the original building as a museum and fully-functioning studio in the early 2000s, and the Muscle Shoals Music Foundation acquired the building in 2013 for the purpose of restoration.

Photo courtesy of Debbie Wilson, Muscle Shoals Sound Studio.

POPE'S TAVERN MUSEUM

203 Hermitage Drive, Florence

Pope's Tavern Museum is housed in a building that dates back to the early 1800s. According to legend, Christopher Cheatham built and operated a tavern on this site for Leroy Pope in 1811, seven years before the founding of Florence. During the Civil War the house was used as a hospital by Union and Confederate armies. Thirty-two soldiers died in the house and were buried in the old Florence Cemetery.

Felix Grundy Lambeth, a postmaster in Florence, bought the house in 1874. It was occupied by the Lambeth family until 1965. When rumors circulated that the house was to be demolished, the Chamber of Commerce purchased the property and gave it to the City of Florence. The deed stipulated the city would maintain and preserve the building as a historic site and that it would be used as a museum. After extensive renovations of the building by the city and an extensive search for appropriate artifacts, the Pope's Tavern Museum was opened to the public in 1968.

Photos courtesy Christi Williams Britten.







ROSENBAUM HOUSE

601 Riverview Drive, Florence



Frank Lloyd Wright designed this house built for Stanley and Mildred Rosenbaum in 1939, and according to the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, "it remains one of the purest examples of the Usonian style, which Wright would spend much of his later career refining." The house is designed in a characteristic L-shape, is made from natural materials – largely cypress wood, brick and glass – and is capped by cantilevered roofs that cover both the living spaces and the adjoining carport. The house does not contain a basement or attic, and the heating system is embedded in the concrete floor to provide radiant heat. The Rosenbaum family remained the sole occupant until 1999, when they donated the house to the City of Florence, and it remains the only Wright house in the southeast open to the public. www.wrightinalabama.com

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Photos courtesy Christi Williams Britten



W.C. HANDY BIRTHPLACE, MUSEUM, AND LIBRARY

620 W. College Street, Florence

NOTE: $14 admission fee is not included in the AHA registration. Please be prepared to pay at door. Museum closes at 4 pm.

The W.C. Handy cabin, museum, and library is dedicated to one of Florence's most famous sons, the "Father of the Blues." William Christopher Handy, was born in Florence in 1873 in a simple cabin at this site that now houses a large collection of his personal papers, memorabilia and artifacts donated before his death in 1958. Born with a natural musical bent-as a boy, he visualized birdcalls as notes on a scale. Handy went on to compose such well-known blues jewels as "St. Louis Blues," "Beale Street Blues," and "Memphis Blues." Florence hosts an an annual week-long W.C. Handy Music Festival, which features concerts, lectures, and events in honor of Handy. www.wchandymuseum.org

WZZA RADIO STATION

1570 Woodmont Drive, Tuscumbia

Bob Carl and Odessa Bailey launched WZZA Radio, the first African American-owned radio station in the Shoals, on July 4, 1972, and the station continues to reach approximately 45,000 listeners each day. Mr. Bailey was known for many "firsts," including one of the first three African-American policeman in Huntsville; the first African American chief of police of Triana; the first African-American to have a television talk show in the Shoals; and the first President of the Shoals Areas Business Association. Knowns as "Soul of the Shoals," WZZA Radio filled a void in broadcasting and remains the only locally owned station with a primarily African American audience in Northwest Alabama. Unique historical memorabilia collected throughout the station's history will be on display as part of the facility tour. To listen to WZZA Radio online, visit www.wzzaradio.com.

73rd MEETING OF THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

1:00 p.m. **Guided Tour of "Village One," U.S. Nitrate Plant Village**
200 Chickamauga St., Sheffield, AL 35660

2:30 p.m. **Open House: Julian House and St. John's Episcopal Church**
Open until 4:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. **Reception and Local History Book Signing**
Rogers Hall, University of North Alabama
500 Court Street, Florence

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Marriott Shoals Conference Center
10 Hightower Place, Florence, Alabama

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales**

9:00 a.m. **General Session**

10:45 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Session A

- "'A Mind to Be Heard': Early Alabama Suffragist Frances Griffin"
 Scotty Kirkland, Alabama Department of Archives and History
- "'To Make 'Sissies' of American Men': Anti-Suffrage Propaganda in Alabama, 1919-1920"
 Alex Colvin, Alabama Department of Archives and History
- "'One of the 'Slickest Little Suffragists' that Ever Came Back South': Scottie McKenzie Frasier and the Wiregrass Suffrage Movement"
 Hayden McDaniel, Alabama Department of Archives and History

Session B

- "The Macon County Health Center: Black Women, Hunger, and Health Activism, 1967-1972"
 Jill Cooley, Minnesota State University
- "Combatting Nature: The Alabama National Guard in the Great Depression and World War II"
 Chris Rein, Air University Press, Maxwell Airforce Base
- "George Wallace, Segregation, and the Alabama Junior College System in Jefferson County"
 Matthew West, Lawson State Community College



FRIDAY, APRIL 3 *Continued*

Session C

- "A Capitol in the Wilderness: Historical Archaeology at Alabama's First State House"
 Eric Sipes, Alabama Historical Commission and *Linda Derry, Old Cahawba Park*
- "Alabama's Historic Byler Road"
 Joel Sanford Mize, Tuscumbia
- "Whose Land? Whose Artifacts? Looting and Collecting in the Shoals"
 Brian Murphy, Florence Arts and Museums

Session D

- "Managing and Maintaining a Successful Historic Marker Program"
 Kerry Dunaway, Clarke County Historical Museum
- "Context Matters: Monuments, Memorials, and Memory in Limestone County, Alabama"
 Rebekah Davis, Limestone County Archives
- "Houston County Monuments and Memorials"
 Marty Olliff, The Wiregrass Archives, Troy University Dothan

Noon **Lunch**

1:00 - 4:30 p.m. **Tours**

6:00 p.m. **Cash Bar**

7:00 p.m. **Annual Awards Banquet**

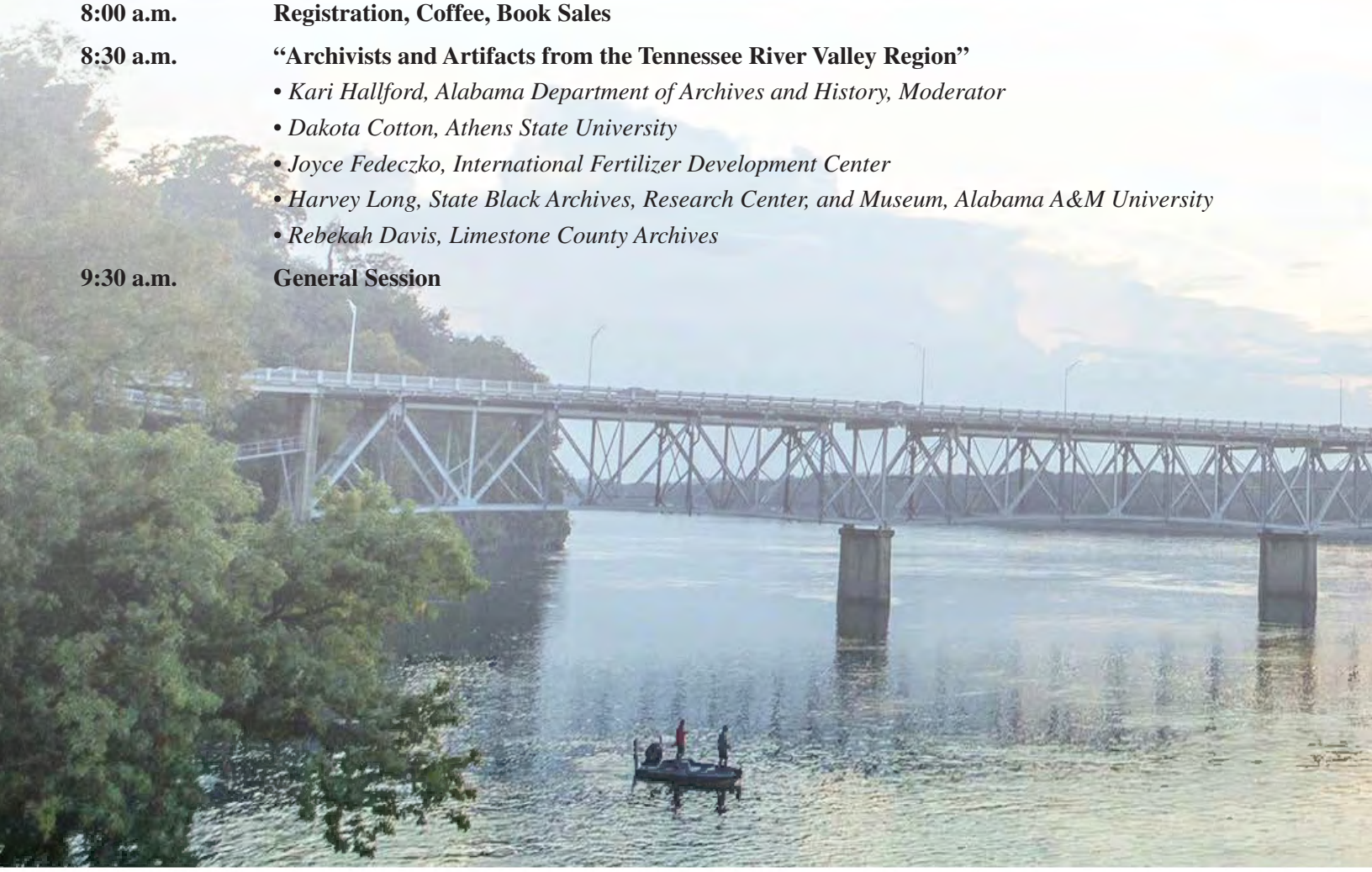
SATURDAY, APRIL 4

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, Book Sales**

8:30 a.m. **"Archivists and Artifacts from the Tennessee River Valley Region"**

- *Kari Hallford, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Moderator*
- *Dakota Cotton, Athens State University*
- *Joyce Fedeczko, International Fertilizer Development Center*
- *Harvey Long, State Black Archives, Research Center, and Museum, Alabama A&M University*
- *Rebekah Davis, Limestone County Archives*

9:30 a.m. **General Session**



10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Session A

- "Old Families of Florence: James Jackson, George Foster, and Alexander Coffee"
 Kayla Scott, Alabama Department of Archives and History
- "Bossie O'Brien Hundley"
 Monica Tapper, Wallace Community College Selma
- "Prohibition in Alabama"
 Matthew Downs, University of Mobile

Session B

- "Spiritual Journey: From Slavery to Hall of Fame"
 Josephine Bolling McCall, Montgomery
- "The Learned Slave"
 Christopher McIlwain, Tuscaloosa
- "Emmor Crew and the Opelika Monorail"
 Delos Hughes, Washington & Lee University

Session C

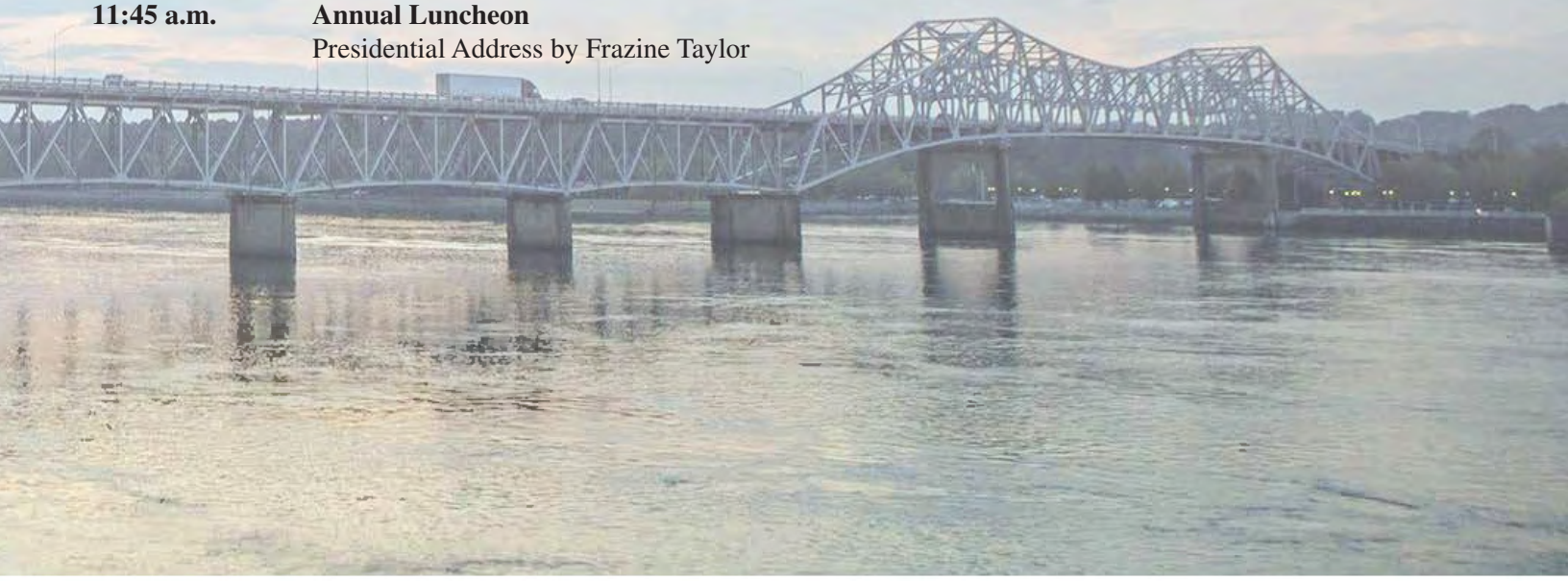
- "Daily Dreams: Alabama's 'Modern Girl' Defines Herself"
 Haley Aaron, Alabama Department of Archives and History
- "Mollie Dowd: Champion of Alabama Working Women"
 Debbie Pendleton, Montgomery
- "Lelia Seton Wilder Edmundson: 1922 Candidate for the 8th Congressional District and Women's Voting Pioneer"
 Annette Norris Bradford, Jackson County Historical Association; John Allison, Morgan County Archives

Session D

- "The Cotton Kingdom: 'African and Native Americans and the Development of the Mississippi Territory'"
 Joseph Lee, Black Heritage Council, Alabama Historical Commission
- "The Impact of Dr. Booker T. Washington on Education in Rural South Macon County, Alabama"
 Lateefah Muhammad, Tuskegee
- "Identifying the Unfinished: Using Civil Rights Geographic Information Systems to Move from Study to Action in Alabama's Black Belt"
 Robert White and Ram Alagan, Alabama State University

11:45 a.m. **Annual Luncheon**

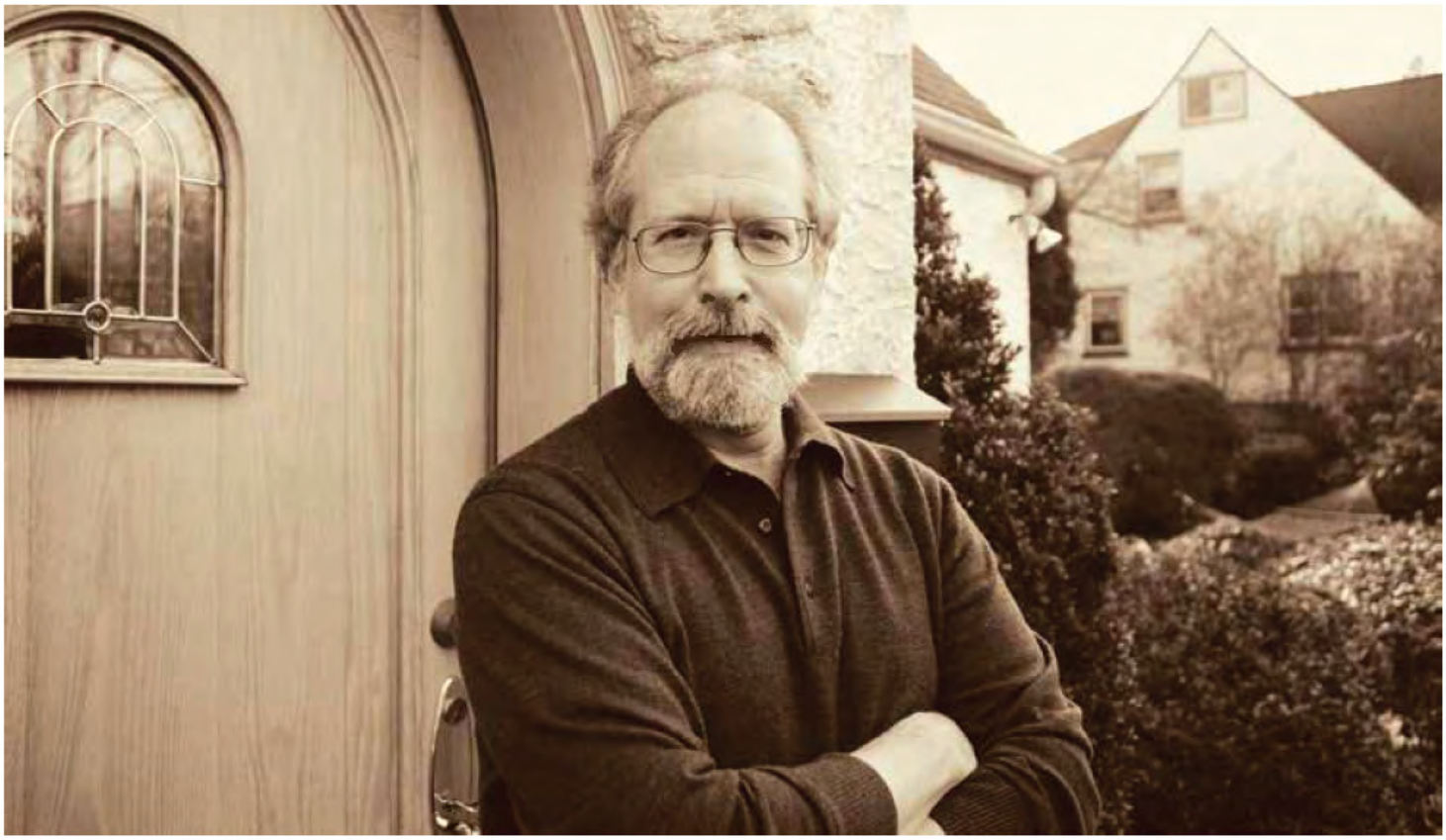
Presidential Address by Frazine Taylor





Dr. Carolyn M. Barske Crawford will provide an overview of Florence, Alabama at the general session on Friday morning. Crawford is the director of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area and an affiliated faculty member in the UNA Department of History. Dr. Dr. Barske Crawford's recent work includes *The Tennessee River and Northwest Alabama*, co-authored with Florence Indian Mound curator Brian Murphy. She has collaborated on many projects focused on the history of northwest Alabama, including *Hidden Spaces*, which uses photography and historical research to examine the stories of lesser-known locations across northwest Alabama, and the Roots of American Music Trail, which documents the rich musical heritage of the region. Dr. Barske Crawford teaches courses in historical administration, exhibit design, local history, Native American history, and co-leads a study abroad trip to Scotland.

Dr. Jonathan Rieder will discuss the civil rights legacy of the Shoals music tradition at the annual awards banquet on Friday evening. Jonathan Rieder is a professor of sociology at Barnard College and Columbia University and the author most recently of two acclaimed books on Dr. King, *Gospel of Freedom: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter From Birmingham Jail and the Struggle That Changed a Nation* and *The Word of the Lord is upon Me: The Righteous Performance of Martin Luther King, Jr*. He has discussed his work on Dr. King on The Tavis Smiley Show, The Charlie Rose Show, CNN.com, the BBC, and All Things Considered and other NPR venues, as well as Australian and Canadian radio. His current project studies the transformation of rhythm and blues into soul music.





ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL MARKERS ERECTED IN 2019

Text of markers will be published in the April 2020 issue of The Alabama Review.

- Alabama's First Peanut Oil Mill (Henry County)
- Aus-Kel Springs (Geneva County)
- Austinville High School (Morgan County)
- Carver Elementary School (Morgan)
- Chilton County History (Chilton County)
- Church Street Community (Madison County)
- Ebenezer Baptist Church (Chilton County)
- Ebenezer Church/The Gordon Family (Jackson County)
- Enon Baptist Church (Lawrence County)
- First Southern Baptist Church (Colbert)
- Flat Rock High School (Jackson County)
- Goshen High School (Pike County)
- Charles Oscar Harris (Montgomery County)
- Holly Pond School (Cullman County)
- Leighton United Methodist Church (Colbert)
- William Moore, Freedom Walker (Etowah County)
- Thomas McAdory Owen (Jefferson County)
- Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church (Montgomery County)
- Prestwick High School/Prestwick Post Office (Washington County)
- Rebirth of Triana, Alabama (Madison County)
- St. Stephen Primitive Baptist Church (Morgan County)
- Tallapoosa County High School (Tallapoosa County)
- Dr. Moddie Daniel Taylor (Conecuh County)
- Bill Traylor (Montgomery County)





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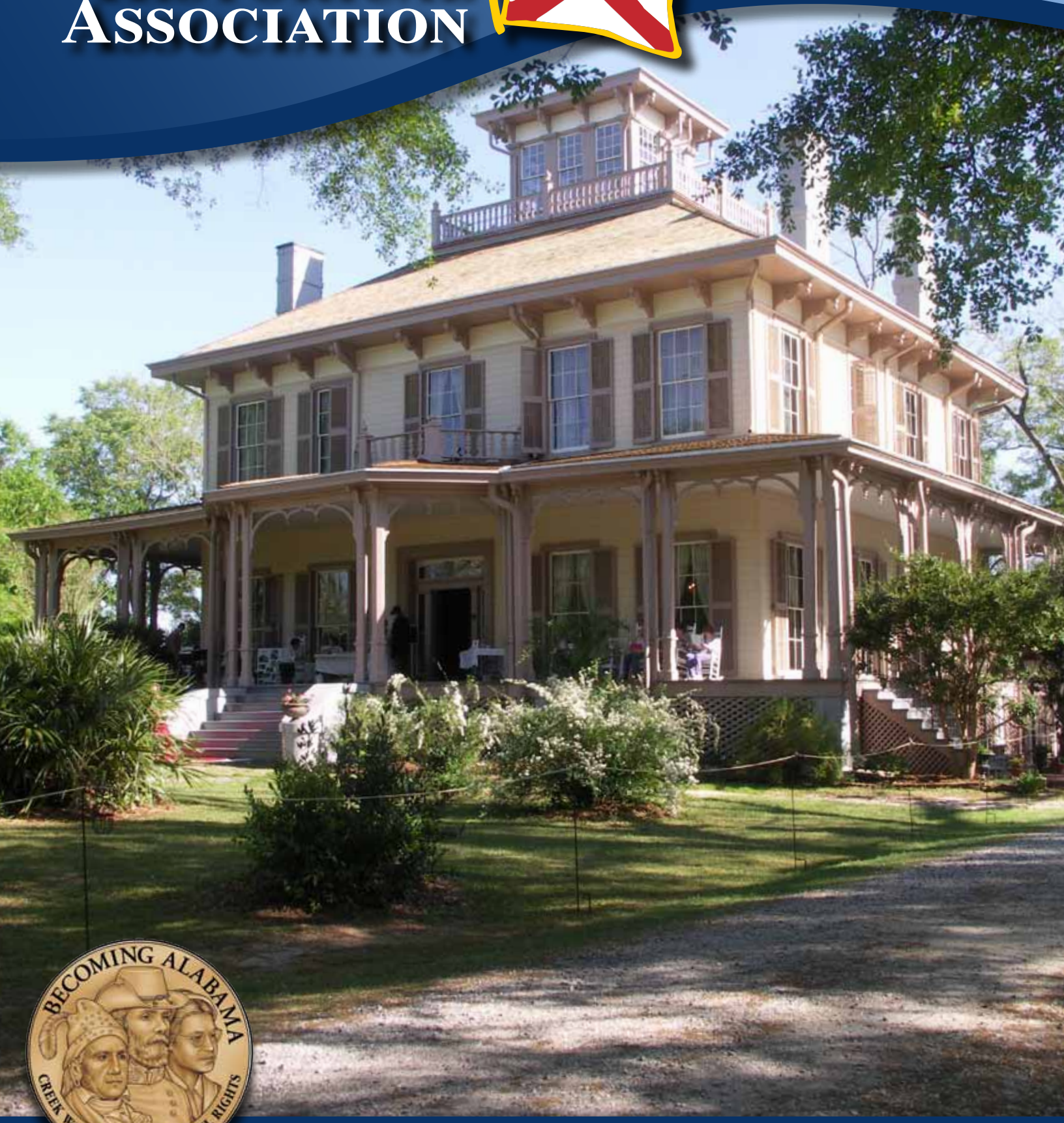
Fall Pilgrimage to Historic Blakely State Park
October 2-3, 2020

Reserve a hotel room at the Spanish Fort Courtyard Marriott or Fairfield Inn & Suites.
Information available at www.alabamahistory.net



VOLUME 28
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2013

Alabama Historical Association



BECOMING ALABAMA
CREEK WAR - CIVIL WAR - CIVIL RIGHTS

66th Annual Meeting April 11-13, 2013, Eufaula, Alabama

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23-27 2012 Historical Markers

Cover image: Fendall Hall, one of Alabama's outstanding Italianate houses and site of the Thursday night reception. Image courtesy of John Greene.

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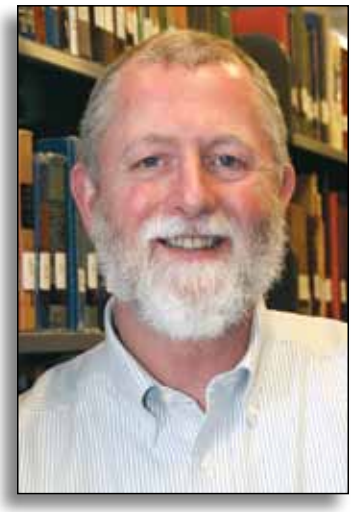
AHA Newsletter
Carey Cauthen, University of Alabama at Birmingham

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The AHA Newsletter is designed and printed by Davis Direct, Montgomery, Alabama.

Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.



Marty Olliff

Welcome to Eufaula! This historic city in equally historic Barbour County (home of six governors) hosts the 2013 Annual Meeting April 11–13 at beautiful Lakepoint Resort State Park. Thanks to Local Arrangements Chair Deborah Casey and her stalwart committee, we look forward to a spectacular time. To see short videos of some of Eufaula's sites, go to the AHA home page, www.alabamahistory.net.

Just prior to our Annual Meeting—on Thursday, April 11—AHA will partner with ADAH and Auburn University's Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities to host a meeting of the Public History Network. Informally organized in 2010 by Steve Murray, the Network joins academic and practicing public historians with local historical society representatives to advance historical knowledge and appreciation. We hope most of the attendees will stay for the AHA meeting.

Preservation has emerged as the unofficial theme of our meeting that begins with Thursday afternoon tours of the Shorter and Fairview Cemeteries in Eufaula. North of Eufaula, reconstructed Fort Mitchell, a stronghold for troops under Gen. John Floyd during the Creek War of 1813 and later an assembly point for the Trail of Tears, will also be open for tours. Our Thursday night reception will take place at Eufaula's Fendall Hall, an outstanding example of mid-nineteenth century Italianate architecture now operated by the Alabama Historical Commission. Entertaining us there will be Eufaula's "Tales from the Crypt."

Friday's events begin at Lakepoint Lodge, the conference hotel, with an opening meeting followed by paper sessions that are sure to stimulate every interest. This year we have expanded the program to include a fourth session as well as poster presentations. Doing so provides opportunities to learn more about Alabama history as well as adding flexibility for some who might not otherwise be able to participate.

In another alteration this year, on Friday we'll leave Lakepoint to enjoy a boxed lunch at the First Presbyterian Church followed by a tour of almost a dozen sites in or near downtown. Be sure to change into your comfortable clothes before leaving the hotel! That evening, we'll return to the Lodge for the annual banquet featuring Dothan's Understudy Theater performing its long-running dinner comedy, "Grits on the Side," a raucous send-up of Southern stereotypes. Please see the program and maps for further information.

Saturday begins with breakfast and John C. Hall, AHA member and noted environmental historian, who will speak on the Longleaf pine forests of Alabama. Later we'll conduct the AHA's business, enjoy another round of paper and poster presentations, and conclude with lunch and the traditional Presidential Address. Afterwards—unless you sneak out early—you can play a round of golf on Lakepoint's green for the change in your couch cushions.

Preparing an AHA Annual Meeting is impossible without the active engagement of AHA members and friends. In addition to the Local Arrangements Committee, I thank the Program Committee chaired by Scotty Kirkland, the Sulzby Award Committee chaired by David Alsobrook, the Hamilton Award Committee chaired by Harriet Amos Doss, the Coley Research Award Committee chaired by Mark Palmer, and the Nominations Committee chaired by Gary Burton. I especially thank the officers and Executive Committee of the AHA who work behind the scenes to keep the AHA on track.

We look forward to a great time in Eufaula.

INTO THE FUTURE

As I reported in the Fall 2012 newsletter, I've asked members to chair two ad hoc committees to report opportunities to work with similar organizations and local historical societies in the state. Additionally, I've asked another committee to report on managing our copyright to *The Alabama Review* in light of new electronic distribution tools. I look forward to their reports as well as a discussion of long-range planning for the AHA.

Sometimes the future comes upon us in good ways. The AHA website, www.alabamahistory.net, is more robust than ever, featuring not only a backlist of AHA Newsletters but also podcasts (and links to non-AHA videos and interviews) and the biographies of AHA presidents from 1947 through 1997 (previously published in *The Alabama Review*). In addition, Anna Henderson Martin penned biographical sketches of those after

Continued on page 4

whom we have named AHA awards. They, too, are available through the website.

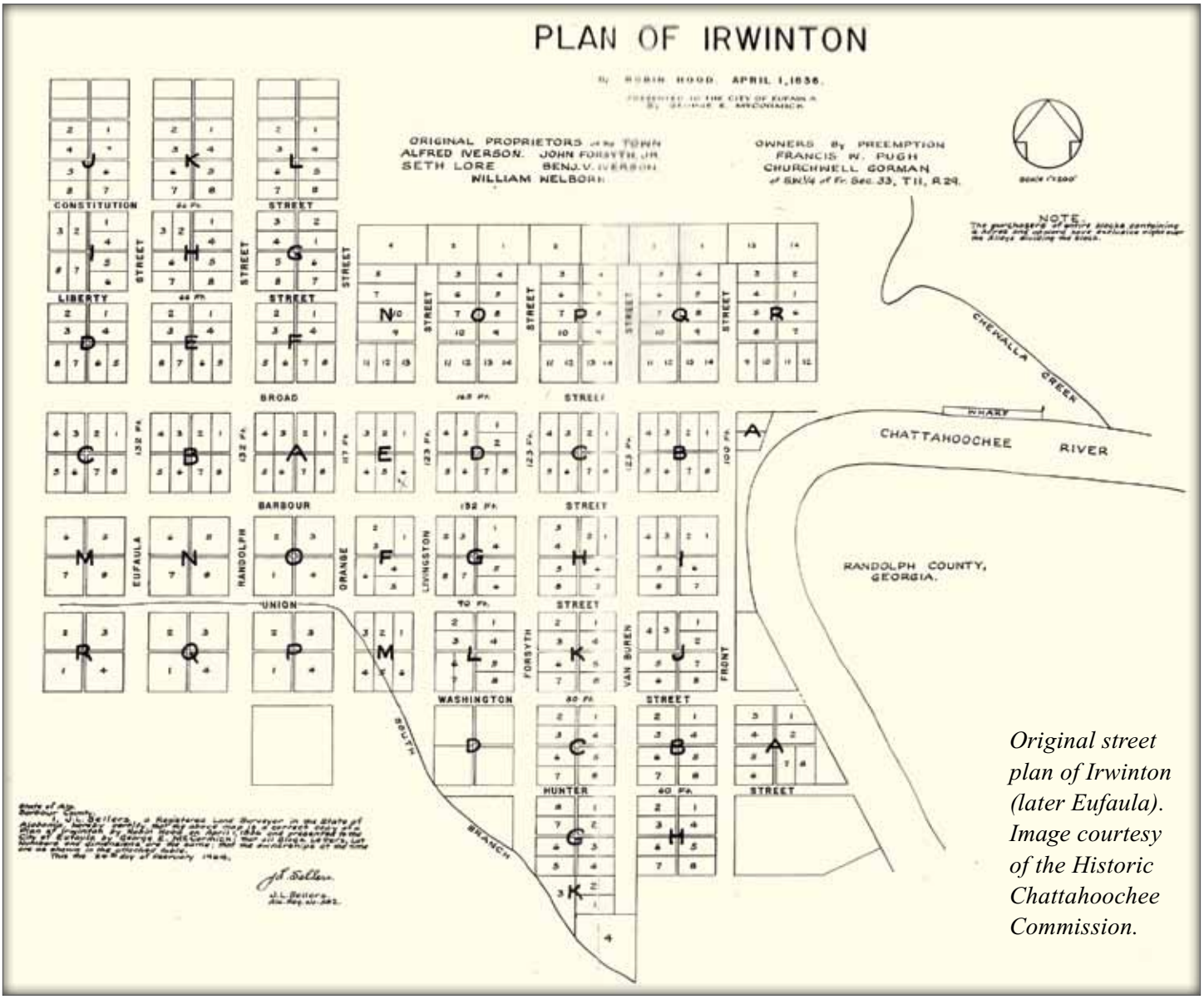
This year, in what I hope becomes a tradition, we have posted synopses of the papers our members will present at the 2013 meeting. Want to know what to expect beyond a catchy title? Now's your chance!

Finally, we have a couple or three issues of the *The Alabama Review* from our new editors at the University of West Alabama. I hope you've enjoyed them, and I look forward to a long, prosperous relationship with Rob Riser and the crew at UWA. You can see the Table of Contents and a few articles at the *Review's* website, www.uwa.edu/alabamareview.

The Sanctuary: Golf at Lakepoint Resort State Park

If you're interested in indulging in a round of golf while attending the annual meeting, look no further than Lakepoint Resort State Park. Their 18-hole championship-caliber golf course will be open during the meeting. The club house offers shower/bathroom facilities and includes a pro shop with golfing apparel and supplies, as well as snacks and drinks.

Rates are $20.00 for green fees and cart for 18 holes—$25.00 on Saturday and Sundays—and after 1 p.m. drop to $13.00. Tee times are recommended on weekends and holidays. If you wish to reserve a time, contact the Sanctuary Pro Shop at (334) 687-6677 or email them at lakepoint.proshop@dcnr.alabama.gov.



Original street plan of Irwinton (later Eufaula). Image courtesy of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.

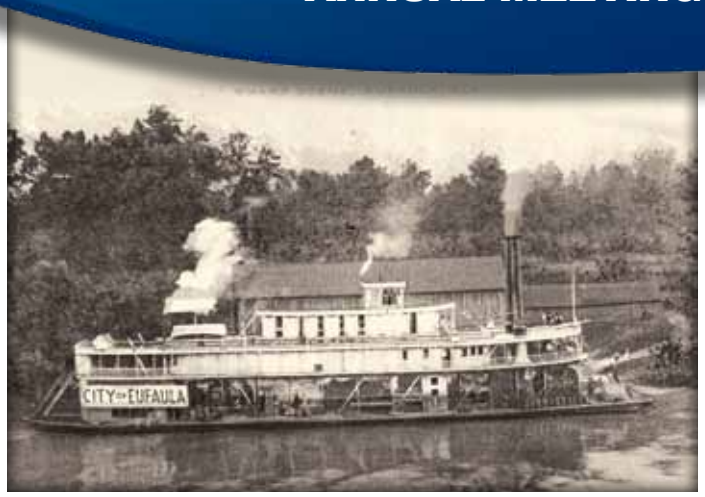
Eufaula to Host Annual Meeting

Historic Eufaula, located on a high bluff overlooking its scenic namesake lake, has a storied past that is brought to life by a stroll down its tree-covered streets. A quintessential Southern river town occupying land that for centuries was home to Native Americans, it was founded in the early 1800s as a frontier settlement. As early as 1823, settlers from Georgia had established a small community near the ancient Creek town of Eufaula. The new community started to develop in earnest in the 1820s through the influence of William Irwin, a Creek War veteran who had been granted several thousand acres of land in Henry County, just to the south of modern-day Eufaula. Through his political connections, Irwin established the first steamboat wharf along the river, setting the foundation for the town's rise to prominence as a center of trade. The community was renamed Irwinton in 1833 in appreciation of his work. It quickly developed into a population center in the new county of Barbour, which was created in late 1832.

The town began to take the shape familiar to us today in 1834, when Capt. Seth Lore laid out its principal streets. Broad Street ran west-east, and the four main north-south avenues were named Livingston, Orange, Randolph, and Eufaula, spelling out L-O-R-E. The rich agricultural lands of the surrounding region drew many to the area. As the swelling population of land-hungry settlers crept farther and farther into Indian lands, tensions with area Creeks escalated. The bloody Second Creek War of 1836 was the result. In the brief conflict, fought to a large degree in the Chattahoochee Valley, the Creeks were defeated in their effort to preserve title to their last remaining ancestral lands. Fortifications were built during the conflict, including a small fort built on what is now North Randolph Street in Eufaula. One of the last battles of the war, the Battle of Hobdy's Bridge, was fought on the Barbour/Pike County border in 1837. Once the fighting ceased, defeated Creeks were forced to move west in a migration that has become known as the "Creek Trail of Tears," and a large swath of eastern Alabama officially opened to American settlement.



Eufaula's East Alabama National Bank.
Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

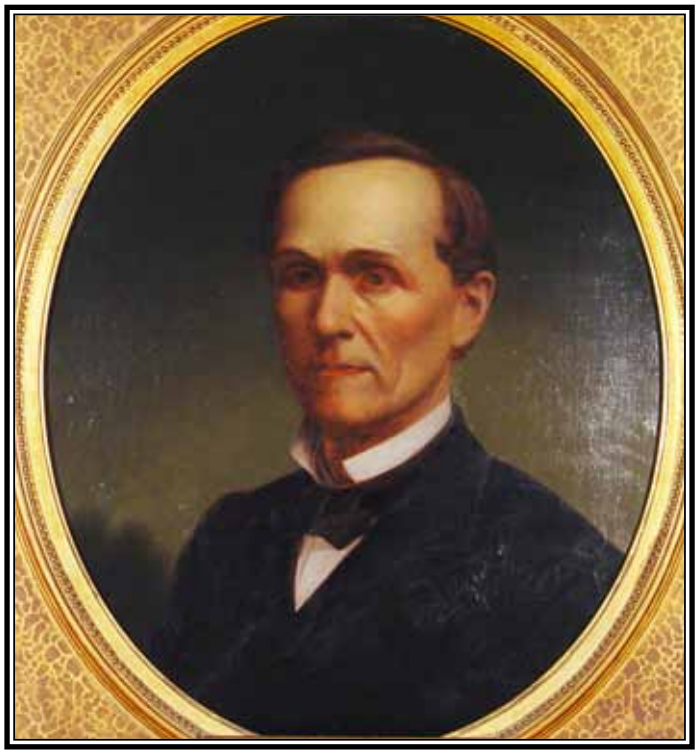


The City of Eufaula Steamboat.
Image courtesy of the Eufaula Heritage Association.

Irwinton gradually expanded westward from the river bluff in the following years. Some of the older wooden buildings overlooking the river were moved farther down Broad Street as that thoroughfare became the primary business center for the growing community. The stark contrast between the older section of town, featuring primarily wooden structures, and the newer developments, featuring several brick buildings, must have been striking—visitors record that they were popularly known as "Rotten Row" and "Brick Row." Decidedly not cosmopolitan in its early years, 1840s Eufaula was a place where hogs roamed the streets; cows and pigs grazing in the city cemetery were serious issues on the city council agenda. Rapidly growing nevertheless, the community in 1843 reclaimed its original name of Eufaula because residents grew tired of having mail misdirected to Irwinton, Georgia.

Eufaula's economy boomed for the remainder of the antebellum period. During this prosperous time, thousands of bales of cotton were shipped down the Chattahoochee from Eufaula to ports as far away as New York and Liverpool, England. When the steamers returned, they often carried exquisite furniture and an array of fine goods for the growing markets in the Eufaula area. Many magnificent homes

Continued on page 6



Regency member and Governor of Alabama John Gill Shorter. Image courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL.

were built on the town's broad, tree-lined boulevards. By the 1850s it was a thriving port and regional trade hub that boasted a vibrant business community, several large churches, and a college for young women.

As tensions over slavery rose, a politically powerful secessionist faction known as the Eufaula Regency was among the first and most vocal groups in the South to advocate secession as a viable political option. An informal group rather than an official organization, the Regency was comprised of young, wealthy lawyers who practiced in Eufaula or nearby Clayton, also in Barbour County. It is believed it received its nickname from opponents who took issue with its presumption to speak for all of Barbour County. Leading figures in Alabama history associated with the Regency include Confederate Brig. Gen. Alpheus Baker, state senator Edward C. Bullock, future University of Alabama president Henry D. Clayton, Congressman James L. Pugh, Governor John Gill Shorter, Governor William C. Oates, and famed secessionist leader William L. Yancey.

For over a decade prior to the Civil War, the Regency kept threats to slavery under discussion in the pages of its newspaper—the *Eufaula Spirit of the South*—backed likeminded candidates for political office, and promoted the expansion of slavery to counter perceived limitations being contemplated by the federal government. The Regency was most active in the first half of the 1850s, vigorously backing several states-rights candidates for statewide and national political office and working to shape public opinion in favor of secession as a political weapon. Perhaps the most controversial action taken by any of the Regency's members took place in 1856 during the national debate over the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Outraged at the possibility that slavery might be outlawed in the territories, Regency member Jefferson Buford and several associates launched an effort to underwrite the costs of moving hundreds of pro-slavery settlers to the area. Although the plan ultimately failed, the attempt brought the Regency to national attention. The high point of its influence on Alabama politics came in August 1861 with the election of Shorter as governor of Alabama. He served one two-year term but was defeated in his bid for reelection by an already war-weary Alabama in 1863.

While local leadership in the war effort diminished, however, hundreds of local men remained in the ranks. Altogether, six companies of soldiers from Eufaula and Barbour County served the Confederacy on battlefields from Bull Run to Appomattox. Eufaula's contribution to the war effort went beyond supplying men in the ranks. It became a small part of the burgeoning industrial complex centered upriver at Columbus, Georgia, by hosting a subsidiary facility for the Confederate Naval Ironworks. One of the special projects of the Confederate navy, an experimental torpedo boat known as the Viper, ended up in Eufaula near the end of the war and was seized by Union forces in one of the conflict's closing campaigns.

Given the role of the Regency in bringing about the secession of Alabama, it was only fitting that Eufaula would briefly become a center of attention one more time in those



The home of Regency member James L. Pugh (the Pugh-Wilkinson House). Image courtesy of Mike Bunn.

Masthead of Eufaula's Regency newspaper Spirit of the South.
Image courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL.


SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH.

"Equality in the Union,---Or, Independence out of it."

VOL. 6. EUFAULA, ALA. NOVEMBER 5, 1850. NO. 19

last days. As Gen. James H. Wilson made his way through central Alabama in April of 1865 on his way to capturing Montgomery and Columbus, Governor Thomas Watts fled the capital city and ordered the state archives sent to Eufaula in preparation for having the city serve as the state capital. No sooner had some of the records arrived, however, than word was received of the approach of troops under the command of Bvt. Maj. Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson. By the time Grierson's forces reached the city in late April, both Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Joseph Johnston had surrendered their armies. Mayor C. J. Pope and a small delegation of citizens met Grierson on College Hill near Fendall Hall under a flag of truce to share the news in hopes of sparing the town destruction. Save for a supply of whiskey held at the city commissary, it was. The Union troops marched peacefully through town and across the bridge over the Chattahoochee to Georgia, where they camped. Local legend claims that a Eufaula musician defiantly played "Dixie" on the front porch of a house as the troops paraded past.

Though many local treasures escaped destruction during the war, they would not have been preserved for us today without the work of the local preservationists who organized the Eufaula Heritage Association in 1965. After the demolition of several old homes, including the residence of Governor William Dorsey Jelks, the Association helped preserve many architectural gems. In 1965 it purchased Shorter Mansion at auction and used this architectural masterpiece, constructed in the Neoclassical Revival style, as headquarters for both the Association and the annual Eufaula Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage, also initiated that year, is the oldest home tour in Alabama and generates approximately $1.5 million in revenue for Eufaula each year. A museum interpreting local history and honoring the service of eight Alabama governors who hailed from Barbour County as well as the career of Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, a former chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is located on the second floor of the mansion. Eufaula is also one of the stops on the Barbour County Governor's Trail, part of the Alabama Scenic Byways program.

The Shorter Mansion is part of the Seth Lore and Irwinton Historic District, which when placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 contained over 700 historic structures and was the largest historic district in Alabama. Today it remains the largest historic district in this section of the state and contains a wide variety of architecture styles, including Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, Second Empire, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman. The style that is perhaps the most noteworthy in Eufaula is Italianate. Based on rambling Italian farmhouses, the style features square towers or cupolas, low-pitched roofs, wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, wraparound porches, and tall, narrow windows. There are several exquisite examples of this style in Eufaula, including the Drewery-Mitchell-Moorer House (1848), which was once topped with a cupola, Fendall Hall (1860), Dean-Page Hall (c. 1850), St. Mary's on the Hill (1850), and Kendall Manor (1872).



Postcard showing cotton in downtown Eufaula.
Image courtesy of Rob Schaffeld.

But enchanting history is only part of Eufaula's unmistakable charm. The city is located on a bluff overlooking scenic Lake Eufaula. Formed in 1962 when the US Army Corps of Engineers dammed the Chattahoochee River at Fort Gaines, Georgia, the lake covers over 45,000

Continued on page 8

acres and boasts 640 miles of shoreline. It is a paradise for those interested in fishing, boating, skiing, swimming, and even birding. The adjacent Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge offers opportunities for visitors to hike trails and look for unique birds and other types of wildlife. Many fishing tournaments are held on the lake each year, attracting hundreds of fishermen who leave behind hundreds of thousands of dollars in tourism revenue for the city and general area. Little wonder that Eufaula is known as the "Big Bass Capital" of the world.

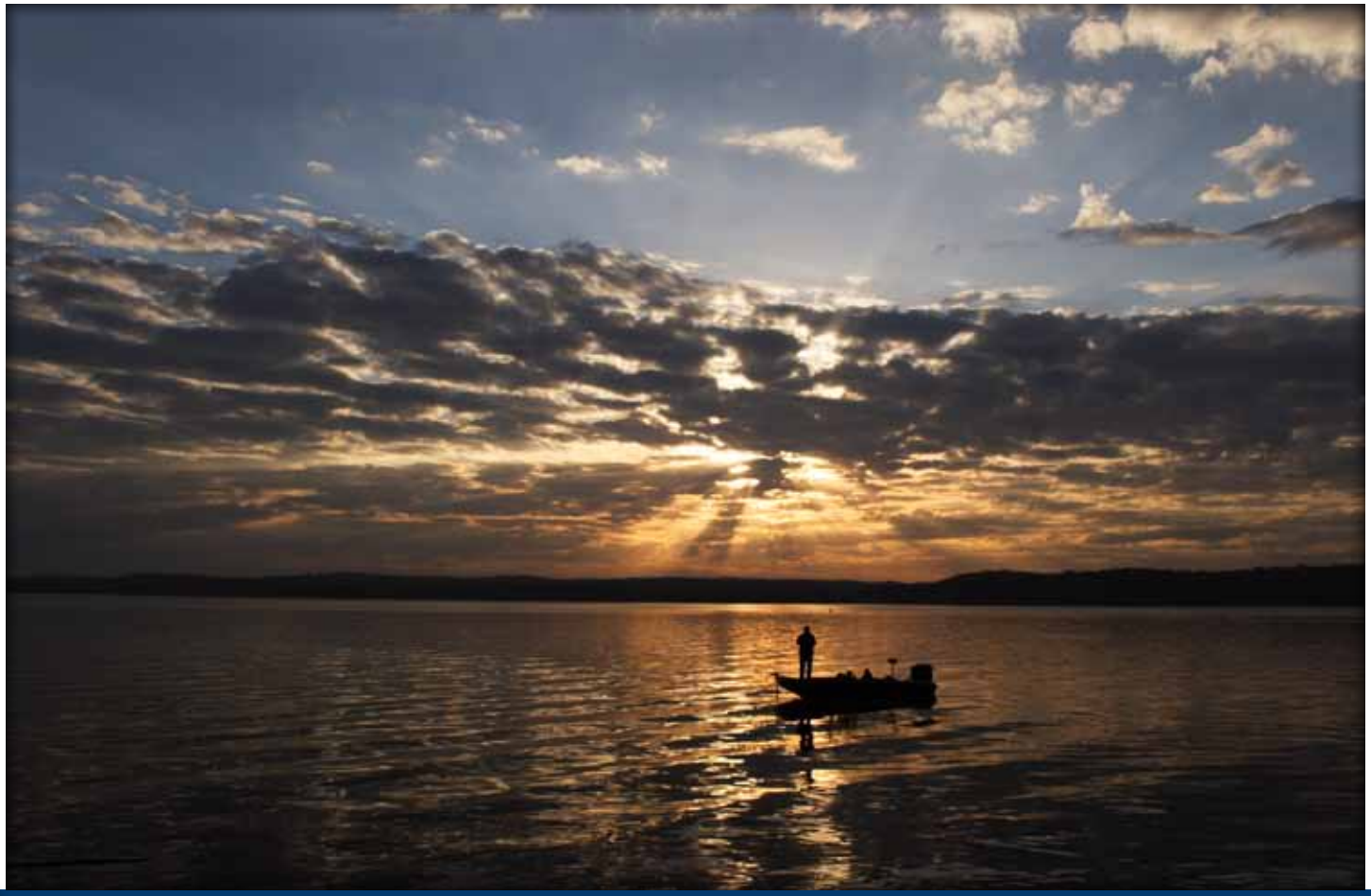
Modern-day Eufaula is home to over 15,000 residents who enjoy its small-town atmosphere and who exude the hospitality that is so much a part of the culture of the South. It has a diverse economic base centered on agriculture, small industries and, of course, tourism. Eufaula is often cited as one of the best places to retire by a number of magazines. 2013 will mark the 190th anniversary of Eufaula's founding. Thanks to progressive city leadership, the future of "The Bluff City on the Chattahoochee" is assured for many more years to come.

Mike Bunn is the current Executive Director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, and Doug Purcell is the organization's former director. The authors would like to thank Jennifer Langdale and Ann Sparks for their assistance in obtaining images.



Kendall Manor. Image courtesy of Jennifer Langdale.

Fishing on Lake Eufaula. Image courtesy of the Eufaula Barbour Chamber of Commerce.



Making History Public Workshop

Thursday, April 11, 2013 • 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Eufaula Barbour County Chamber of Commerce
333 East Broad Street, Eufaula, AL 36027

Sponsored by the Alabama Historical Association and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University

Are you a leader or volunteer in a local historical society, museum, or nonprofit organization that preserves, interprets, or makes history available to the public?

Join with others for a day of networking, learning about resources and funding opportunities, and preserving history digitally through Alabama Mosaic.

The cost of the workshop is $15, which covers lunch, and you may add the cost to your AHA registration fee using the form in this newsletter.

Bring a historic photograph or document from your community! Scanning stations and technicians will help us make these available to the public at www.alabamamosaic.org.

For more information, contact Maiben Beard at meb0015@auburn.edu or (334) 844-4903.



Pebble Hill in Auburn. Image courtesy of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, Auburn University.



Girls dressed in asparagus costumes. Image courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Auburn University Libraries.

Thursday, April 11

10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Making History Public Workshop, Eufaula/Barber County Chamber of Commerce

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Pre-meeting Tours (tour times vary by location):
- Fort Mitchell, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Indian Heritage Center, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Shorter Cemetery, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
- Fairview Cemetery, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
- Eufaula Barbour County Chamber of Commerce, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Reception: Fendall Hall, sponsored by the Friends of Fendall Hall

Friday, April 12

8:30 a.m. Registration and Book Sales, Lakepoint Resort State Park

9:30 a.m. General Session, Lakepoint Resort State Park

10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions, Lakepoint Resort State Park

SESSION ONE—The Birmingham Demonstrations: A Becoming Alabama Roundtable

Glen Eskew, Georgia State University
Jim Baggett, Birmingham Public Library Archives
Barbara Shores, Birmingham
Dan Puckett, Troy University (Chair)

SESSION TWO—Alabama Places
- "The Survival of Arlington, Birmingham's Antebellum House"– *Carolyn Green Satterfield, Birmingham*
- "Five Airfields of Tuskegee during World War II"– *Daniel L. Haulman, Air Force Historical Research Agency*
- "Agriculture in the Antebellum Wiregrass"– *Tommy C. Brown, Auburn University*

SESSION THREE—Alabama Biography I
- "Peter Brannon's Extra-Illustrated Copy of Philip Henry Gosse's *Letters from Alabama* (1859)"– *Gary R. Mullen, Professor Emeritus, Auburn University*
- "William A. Fenn and Eufaula's Lively Livery Stable Culture"– *Angela Lakwete, Auburn University*
- "The Burdens of Justice: John McKinley and the Original Ninth Circuit"– *Steven P. Brown, Auburn University*

SESSION FOUR—Fighting Alabamians (and Some Georgians, too)
- "Not Here You Won't! Dueling Across State Lines" – *Matthew A. Byron, Young Harris College*
- "'To Arms! To Arms!': Alabama's Response to the Mexican War"– *Ronald Thomas, Abbeville*
- "Fighting for College and Country: Birmingham-Southern in the Second World War"– *C. Gates Janich, Birmingham-Southern College*

Noon–1:00 p.m. Lunch, First Presbyterian Church

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Tours:

• Shorter Mansion	• Fendall Hall	• Eufaula Carnegie Library
• Eufaula Carnegie Library	• Hart House	• Kellogg House
• Rudderman House	• Honan House	• Masonic Lodge
• First Presbyterian Church	• St. James Episcopal Church	• St. Luke AME Church

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar and Reception, Lakepoint Resort State Park

7:00 p.m. Annual Banquet, Lakepoint Resort State Park – *Dothan's Understudy Theater, "Grits on the Side"*

Saturday, April 13

8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Lakepoint Resort State Park – *Dr. John Hall, Black Belt Museum, University of West Alabama*

9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m. Registration and Poster Session, Lakepoint Resort State Park

9:45 a.m. General Session, Lakepoint Resort State Park

10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions, Lakepoint Resort State Park

SESSION A—Towns and Mill Villages in Alabama

- "Town Development in Antebellum Alabama"– *Evelyn D. Causey, Auburn*
- "Donald Comer: Mill Owner"– *Mike Breedlove, Alabama Department of Archives and History*
- "Life on South Side: The Cowikee Mills Village and Its Residents, 1910–1940"– *David E. Alsobrook, History Museum of Mobile*

SESSION B—Civil War

- "Embattled and Embedded: Braxton Bragg, John Forsyth, and the Convenient Relationship between the Civil War Press and the Military"– *Lonnie A. Burnett, University of Mobile*
- "Alabama Women Respond to the Union Occupation of North Alabama"– *Joseph W. Danielson, Des Moines Community College*
- "The Production of Military Supplies at the Alabama State Penitentiary during the Civil War"– *Brett J. Derbes, Auburn University*

SESSION C—Post–WWII Politics

- "'Get that Damn Judge!' The Strange Career of James Hammonds, 1962–1968"– *S. Jonathan Bass, Samford University*
- "Fighting for the Promise: Alabama Democratic Conference Activists' Struggle for Fifteenth Amendment Rights, 1960–1970"– *Lawrence U. McLemore, Auburn University*
- "Promises, Promises: Integration of the Alabama Democratic Delegation to the 1968 Convention"– *Chriss H. Doss, Birmingham*

SESSION D—Alabama Biography II

- "An Alabama Portrait of Henry Sheppard – Ethnographer, Geographer, Linguist, and the First Black Presbyterian Missionary in Africa"– *Frances Osborn Robb, Huntsville*
- "James H. DeVotie and the Growth of Alabama Baptists"– *Christopher Morgan Peters, Tuscaloosa*
- "The Burden of the Southern Historian: Frank Lawrence Owsley, Agrarianism, and the Plain Folk"– *John J. Langdale, III, Andrew College*

11:45 a.m. Annual Luncheon, Lakepoint Resort State Park
Presidential Address by Marty Olliff

ACCOMMODATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

Making History Public Workshop Venue

Eufaula Barbour County
Chamber of Commerce
333 East Broad Street
Eufaula, AL 36027
(334) 687-6664

Thursday Night Reception

Fendall Hall
917 West Barbour Street
Eufaula, AL 36027
(334) 687-8469

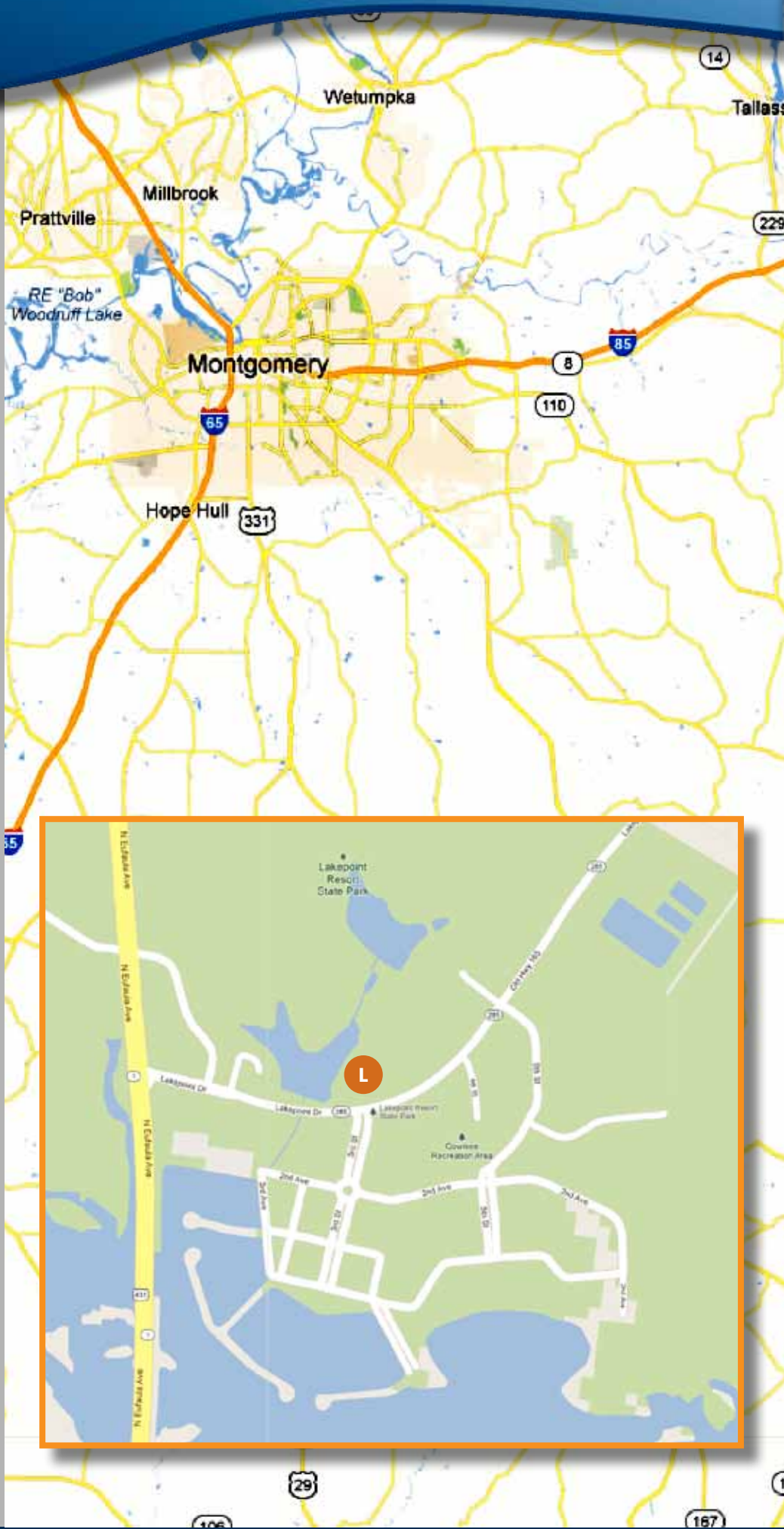
Hotels and Meeting Venue

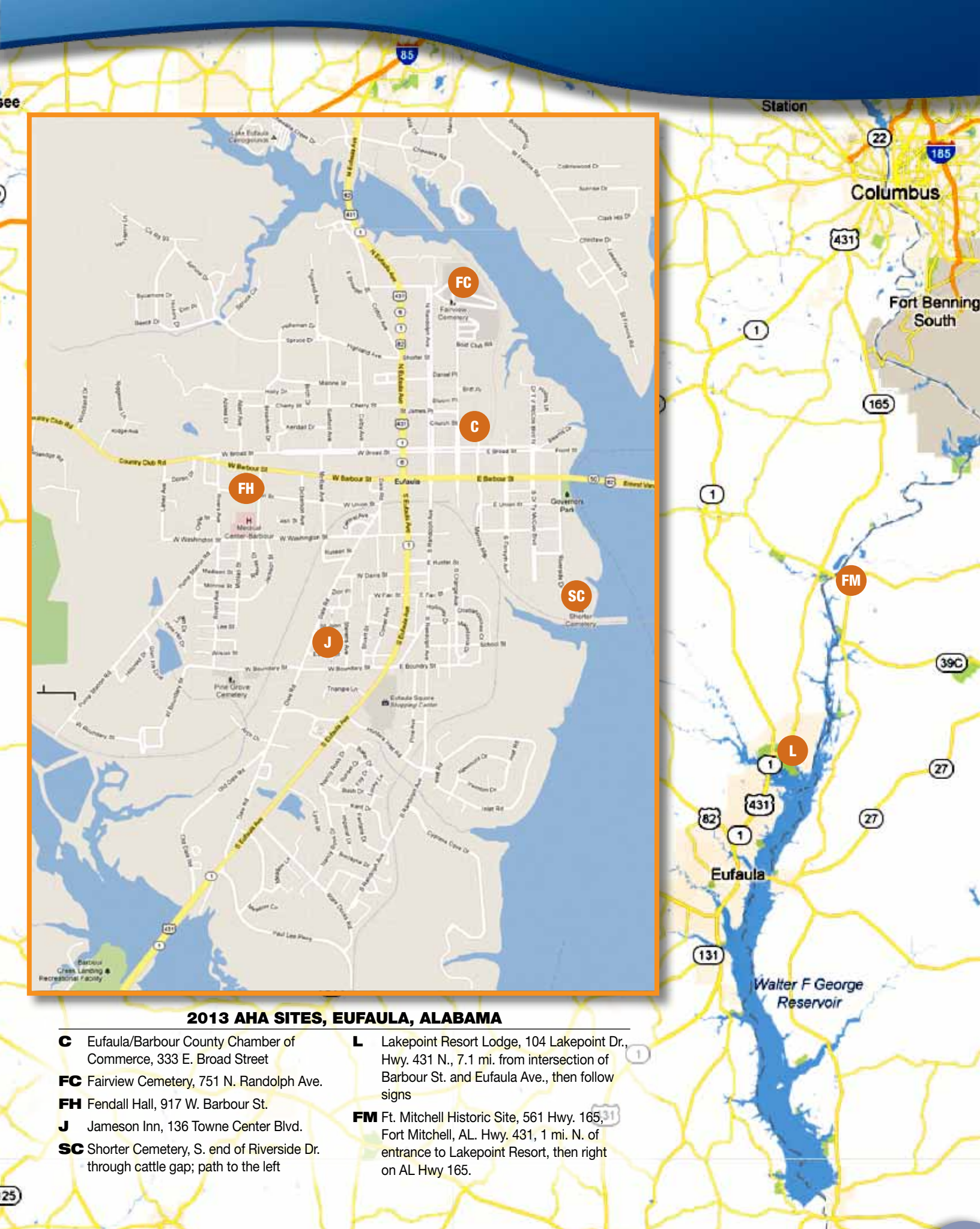
Lakepoint Resort State Park
(hotel and meeting venue)
104 Lakepoint Drive
Eufaula, AL 36027
(800) 544-5253 or (334) 687-8011

Hotel rooms, cabins, and cottages are available, starting at $81.90 per night, plus tax. AHA members must mention Group Code 1797 when making reservations. Reservations must be made by March 11, 2013, to receive the AHA rate. Note: Alabama State Park policy requires payment of the first night's stay to secure reservation.

Baymont Inn & Suites (hotel)
136 Towne Center Blvd.
Eufaula, AL 36027
(334) 687-7747

Reserve room by March 28 to receive the AHA rate of $70.00 per night, plus tax.





2013 AHA SITES, EUFAULA, ALABAMA

C Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of Commerce, 333 E. Broad Street

FC Fairview Cemetery, 751 N. Randolph Ave.

FH Fendall Hall, 917 W. Barbour St.

J Jameson Inn, 136 Towne Center Blvd.

SC Shorter Cemetery, S. end of Riverside Dr. through cattle gap; path to the left

L Lakepoint Resort Lodge, 104 Lakepoint Dr., Hwy. 431 N., 7.1 mi. from intersection of Barbour St. and Eufaula Ave., then follow signs

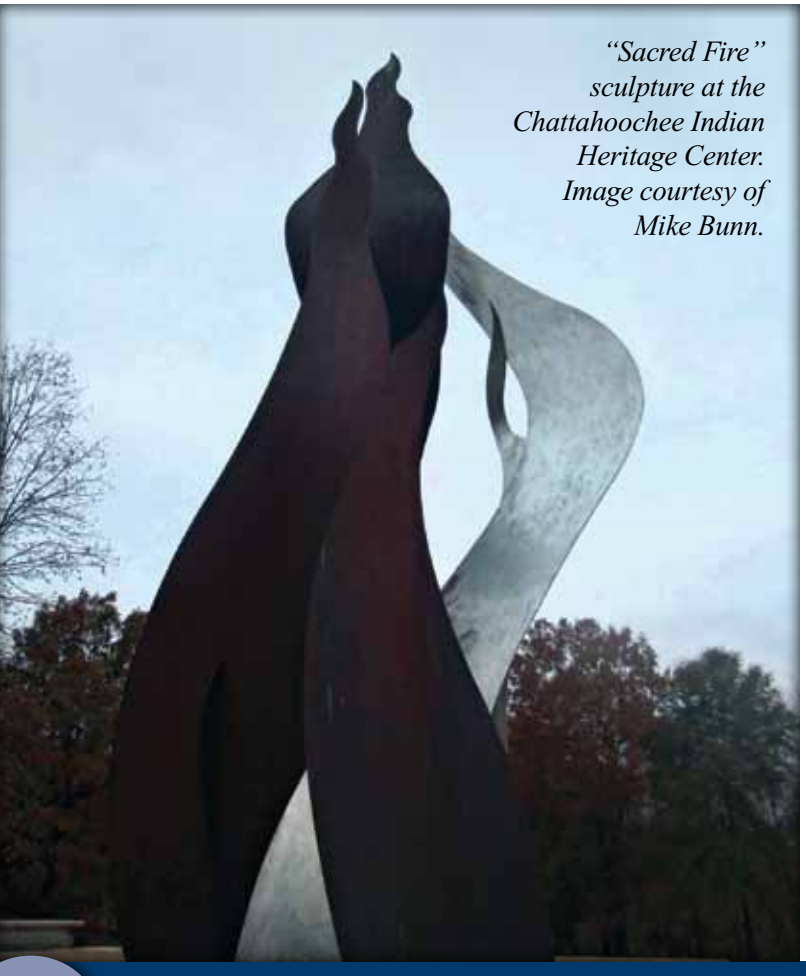
FM Ft. Mitchell Historic Site, 561 Hwy. 165, Fort Mitchell, AL. Hwy. 431, 1 mi. N. of entrance to Lakepoint Resort, then right on AL Hwy 165.

Pre-Meeting Tours of Eufaula

Thursday, April 11, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Plan to arrive early to Eufaula, because even if you do it may be a challenge to see everything there is to see! Read on to discover the wonderful ways you can spend your time before the Thursday night reception.

If you arrive early in the day, two of the Thursday tour sites are located a short distance from Eufaula and are well worth the drive. The Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center is located about 25 minutes north of Eufaula, adjacent to Fort Mitchell Park, and is open to visitors from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Although the Creeks were once the most powerful Indian nation in the area, they were systematically driven from their lands during the territorial period and early years of Alabama's statehood. The site is an outdoor interpretive center and memorial honoring the Creek Indians who called the area home for generations. It consists of a 21-foot-high sculpture representing the Sacred Fire that sat at the heart of every Creek town; four bronze panels inscribed with names listed on the Creek Indian census of 1833; a ball field modeled on traditional stickball fields; and numerous interpretive trails with plantings of traditional species. The center is administered by the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association.



"Sacred Fire" sculpture at the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center. Image courtesy of Mike Bunn.



The gates of Fairview Cemetery. Image courtesy of Michael Davis.

A National Historic Landmark, Fort Mitchell Park contains a reconstruction of an 1813 fort that figured prominently in the history of the lower Chattahoochee Valley, an early 1800s log cabin, a historic cemetery, a former dueling ground, and a visitor's center. The fort was originally constructed by Georgia militia along the Federal Road during the Creek War and used as a base of operations for two major campaigns. The fort was reconstructed after the war and continued to play a role through periods of service in the Second Creek War through the Civil War. The grounds were visited by Marquis de Lafayette during his celebrated visit to America, and Francis Scott Key and Gen. Winfield Scott were both briefly posted there. Most poignantly, the fort served as a primary assembly point for Creeks prior to their removal to the West in what has become known as the "Creek Trail of Tears." It is open Wednesday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you arrive later in the afternoon, you may wish to start off your tour at the James S. Clark Center, home of the Eufaula Barbour Chamber of Commerce. Originally constructed around 1892 as a freight depot, the facility served Eufaula and the surrounding area until the late 1980s. It then sat vacant and deteriorating until 2000, when the Eufaula Barbour County Chamber of Commerce—in partnership with the City of Eufaula and the Barbour County Heritage Museum Board—began renovations to house the Chamber, Visitor's Bureau, and Barbour County Heritage Museum. It now serves as Eufaula's visitors center and contains exhibits featuring a variety of items borrowed from the Eufaula Heritage Association that chronicle local history.

The Clark Center and the two following sites will have someone ready to greet you from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Two historic cemeteries are also on the agenda. Fairview Cemetery is Eufaula's oldest cemetery, established in the late 1830s. Over the years this public burial ground has grown through land purchases and consolidation of other cemeteries, including Jewish, Presbyterian, Masonic, and Odd Fellows.

Shorter Cemetery. Image courtesy of Doug Purcell.



It is believed that soldiers who died from injuries in Civil War battles are buried here, though there are no grave markers. Injured soldiers were transported down the Chattahoochee to the Tavern, located on the banks of the river; the 1837 building served as a hospital during the war. Many of the early settlers of Eufaula and Barbour County are also buried here. The name Fairview Cemetery was adopted at the suggestion of Claude Hill, daughter of Eufaula Mayor P. B. McKenzie, in 1895.

Shorter Cemetery is located on the bluff overlooking Lake Eufaula and is near the site of the original Shorter home, which was destroyed by fire. It is believed that the cemetery has existed since the 1840s. John Gill Shorter, Governor of Alabama from 1861 to 1863, is buried here, along with his father Gen. Ruben Clark Shorter (the first Shorter to settle in Barbour County) and other family members. In a nearby brick enclosure are the graves of family servants and slaves. Shorter Cemetery has suffered from vandalism and neglect, but funds obtained from an Alabama Historical Commission grant and donations from individuals and the Sons of Confederate Veterans have spurred much needed restoration. The local SCV chapter conducts this restoration project.

Fort Mitchell National Historic Landmark.
Image courtesy of Mike Bunn.



Reception FENDALL HALL

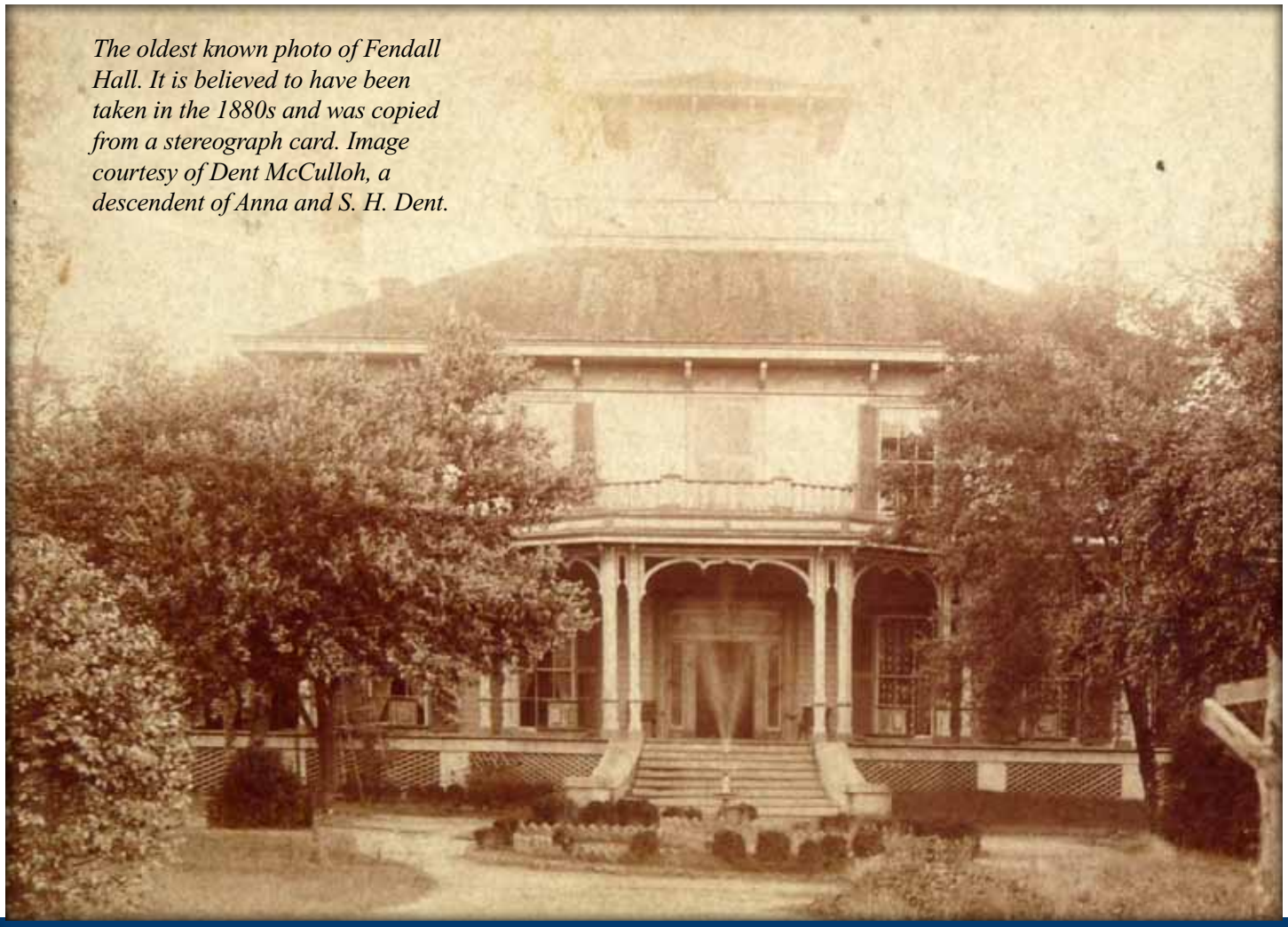
The annual Thursday evening reception will take place at Fendall Hall, one of Alabama's outstanding Italianate houses containing elaborate and rare interior decorative painting dating from the 1880s.

In 1860 Edward B. and Ann Fendall Beall Young moved into their new home on "the hill" overlooking Eufaula. Edward was a merchant and businessman originally from New York City. Ann grew up in Warrenton, Georgia, the daughter of a plantation owner who moved to Georgia from Maryland. The couple met in Marion, Georgia, married, and moved to Eufaula (then Irwinton) in 1837.

Their home, later to be called Fendall Hall (see the cover and accompanying photos), was completed at the height of Edward's success. He owned a retail business; was principal owner of a covered bridge built by Horace King connecting Eufaula with Georgetown, Georgia; was president of a bank; founded a business insuring cotton being transported down the river; and owned a sawmill. Edward Young both contributed to and benefited from Eufaula's rapid growth in the 1840s through 1860s.

Ann passed away in 1876 and Edward followed shortly thereafter in 1879. Edward stipulated in his will that his possessions be shared equally among his eight children. Daughter Anna Dent purchased the home from her father's estate for $4,000 in 1880. The furnishings of the home were divided and only one eighth remained with the home; Anna and her husband S. H. Dent took this opportunity to completely redecorate.

Fendall Hall today is the property of the Alabama Historical Commission and is operated as a historic house



The oldest known photo of Fendall Hall. It is believed to have been taken in the 1880s and was copied from a stereograph card. Image courtesy of Dent McCulloh, a descendent of Anna and S. H. Dent.



Corner cabinet, part of the Young's original 1860s furnishings. Image courtesy of Allen White.

museum. It was purchased by the state of Alabama in 1973 after serving as the home of the Young family for over 100 years. The exterior reflects the original 1860s Italianate architectural style planned by Edward and master builder George Whipple. With contributions from AHC, the Friends of Fendall Hall, Young family members, and local citizens, Fendall Hall's interior reflects the occupancy of Anna and her husband.

Original features of the house include black and white marble tiles in the front entry, eight Italian marble fireplace surrounds, Bohemian glass pocket doors between the drawing room and dining room, hand-carved stair railing and handmade plaster moldings. The Dents added hand-painted walls in the front hallway, drawing room, and dining room; mantel mirrors in the drawing room and dining room; a pier mirror in the drawing room; an indoor water system; crystal chandeliers in the front hallway, drawing room, and dining room; electrical lighting in 1912; wool carpeting in the drawing and dining rooms; and new furniture in the high Victorian Eastlake style. Fendall Hall today reflects as closely as possible the elegance the home experienced during the Young and Dent occupancy of the house from 1860 to 1917.



Fendall Hall's Drawing Room. Image courtesy of John Greene.



Fendall Hall's Porch. Image courtesy of John Greene.



Fendall Hall's Painted Dining Room. Image courtesy of Allen White.

Image courtesy of Allen White.

Eufaula Carnegie Library



The Eufaula Carnegie Library was built with a $10,000 donation from industrialist Andrew Carnegie. The Eufaula City Council accepted the gift on February 9, 1903, noting that "the library will enhance the value of citizenship and result in good to all the people." Local architect Charles A. Stephens designed the building and it was constructed by Algernon Blair of Montgomery. The library opened on May 6, 1904, with a collection of 1,000 books and magazines largely donated by local citizens. A local newspaper, the Eufaula Times and News, reported that the library would be "a fine place to while away the hours . . . wrestling with the bright minds of the world."

In 1990 it was enlarged with a new addition, doubling the size of the library. It was carefully designed and planned to complement the original structure. Larry Oakes, then executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission, stated the addition was "one of the finest additions to a historical structure that we have seen anywhere."

Each year the Barbour County Genealogy and History Group display a photo exhibit in the library's auditorium. Photos prior to 1960 are gathered and displayed on themed boards. Please be sure to visit this exhibit while touring the library.

Petry-Honan Home

The Gothic Revival Petry-Honan home was built circa 1876 by Dozier Thornton and purchased by local cotton merchant William Petry in 1876. With its one-of-a-kind "tank room" under the eaves, it was one of the first—if not the first—homes in Eufaula to have running water. It has been occupied by Mr. Petry's descendants since that time. Anmarie and Terry Honan are the current occupants.



Because the home has been occupied by the same family for so long, many original furnishings, clothing, and documents are intact. The original detached kitchen remains almost entirely in its original condition, complete with original fixtures and kitchen utensils. Anmarie and Terry have made recent improvements while preserving much of the original. This home is a popular fixture on the Annual Eufaula Heritage Association Pilgrimage each spring.

Image courtesy of Allen White.

The Hart House

Built circa 1850, the Hart House serves as the headquarters of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC). It is recognized as an outstanding example of pure Greek Revival architecture. The home was built by John Hart, who moved to Eufaula from New Hampshire and became a prominent merchant and planter. When constructed, the house was on the western edge of the town, and it is one of only five Eufaula buildings recorded by the Historic American Building Survey in 1935. The house remained in possession of Hart's descendants until 1941. It was purchased by the Eufaula Heritage Association in the 1970s and later listed on the National Register of Historic Places before being purchased by the HCC. The interior includes many furnishings original to the Hart family.



Image courtesy of Allen White.

Wood-Rainey Building

Built on Eufaula's Broad Street over a seven year period in the 1870s, the Wood-Rainey Building originally housed a buggy and harness shop on its ground floor. The second story rooms were used as residences, some temporary and others more permanent. The third floor ballroom was used for theatrical productions, dances, and other public gatherings. The building's architecture features distinctive metal ceilings, recessed louvered shutters, and intricate mill-work.

For over a century the building has been the home of Harmony Lodge #46, which was chartered in 1839 and is now the oldest Masonic Lodge in southeast Alabama. Over the years the Wood-Rainey Building has also been used as a meeting place by several other Masonic organizations. Non-Masonic tenants have included the Elks, the Odd Fellows, and, briefly, the Ku Klux Klan.



Exterior of the Wood-Rainey Building.
Image courtesy of Ron Thomas.



Interior of the Masonic Lodge.
Image courtesy of Ron Thomas.

Image courtesy of Allen White.

Kellogg Home



This home was built for Mr. and Mrs. Lore Russell by her mother Mrs. Thomas Smith in the early 1900s. Mr. Russell was the great nephew of Seth Lore, the land speculator who developed the town plan for Eufaula. The house is Neoclassical Revival in style and is constructed of stucco with pebbles and wood. Ionic columns support the impressive front porch roof. The current owners, Dee and Don Kellogg, recently completed a major restoration of the house.

Image courtesy of Allen White.



Rudderman Home

This home was built in 1845 by Dr. William H. Thornton, the first mayor of Eufaula. The wide veranda with round and square Doric columns was added in the 1900s by his daughter Laura. The interiors are almost unchanged since its completion. Cathedral doors in the parlor came from England, and original marble mantels remain. The large octagonal chimney is an unusual feature.

Married to Mary Butler Shorter, Dr. Thornton was well respected in Eufaula. Known for his strong personality, he refused to bless the union of Laura to George Legare Comer, a son of the wealthiest family in Alabama, until he joined the Baptist Church.

Shorter Mansion

Shorter Mansion was the home of Eli Sims Shorter II and his wife from its completion in 1906 until Wileyna's death in 1927. This Neoclassical Revival home with its 17 Corinthian columns remained in the family until it was sold at public auction in 1965 to a group of concerned Eufaula citizens who, along with others, formed the Eufaula Heritage Association to preserve the home.

Since 1965 Shorter Mansion has served as Eufaula's social center and as an important example of historic preservation. It is home to the Eufaula Heritage Association and a local history museum. The mansion serves as the venue for many prestigious social events each year. The Eufaula Heritage Association Pilgrimage and a Christmas Tour of Homes is held annually to support its continued preservation. The mansion is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for tours. It is also available for rental events year round.

Image courtesy of Allen White.



Eufaula's Churches

Three historic churches are opening their doors to AHA members.

St. Luke AME Church. In 1840 Ruben Shorter donated lumber to construct a Baptist church. His slaves dressed the lumber and assisted in its construction. By 1869 the Baptist congregation had outgrown the building and constructed a larger church away from the river, and the building was given to the Negro Baptist Church. In 1877 the African Methodist Episcopal congregation bought it and still own and worship in the church today. St. Luke's is the oldest extant church building in Eufaula. The building is constructed of wood and has two wooden Doric columns in the recessed entrance. The bell tower is simple and original, and the portico remains unchanged.

St. James Episcopal Church. The first Episcopal Church was formed in Eufaula in 1844, and this Gothic Revival church was built in 1905. It is said that the church was named for President James K. Polk. There are two towers and three front entrances (the bell belonged to another church before finding a new home at St. James). Open beams support the interior of the sanctuary, which is small but well-appointed and unique. Its hand-carved altar is from Germany. A beautiful rose window is situated between the two towers at the front of the church. Stained glass windows on the north and south sides of the sanctuary were given as memorials, and many original citizens of Eufaula have their names here.

First Presbyterian Church. The first Presbyterian Church was organized by sixteen members in 1836. Services at that time were held over McKenzie's, a local store. The present sanctuary was erected in 1869 and dedicated in June 1871. It is a wonderful example of Gothic Architecture patterned after English and Scottish churches. The bricks used in construction were imported from Holland. The Tiffany-style leaded stained glass windows were purchased in New York. The pulpit furniture, pulpit Bible, silver communion service, pews, folding blinds, and chandeliers (formerly gas, now electric) are all original to 1869. On March 5, 1919, a tornado struck Eufaula. The south side of the Presbyterian Church's patterned slate roof was blown off, along with the ornamental iron railing on the ridge of the roof. Several of the Tiffany windows were damaged and could not be replaced; substitute glass was used to repair the damage.



First Presbyterian Church. Image courtesy of Allen White.



St. Luke AME. Image courtesy of Allen White.



St. James Episcopal. Image courtesy of Allen White.

"Grits on the Side"

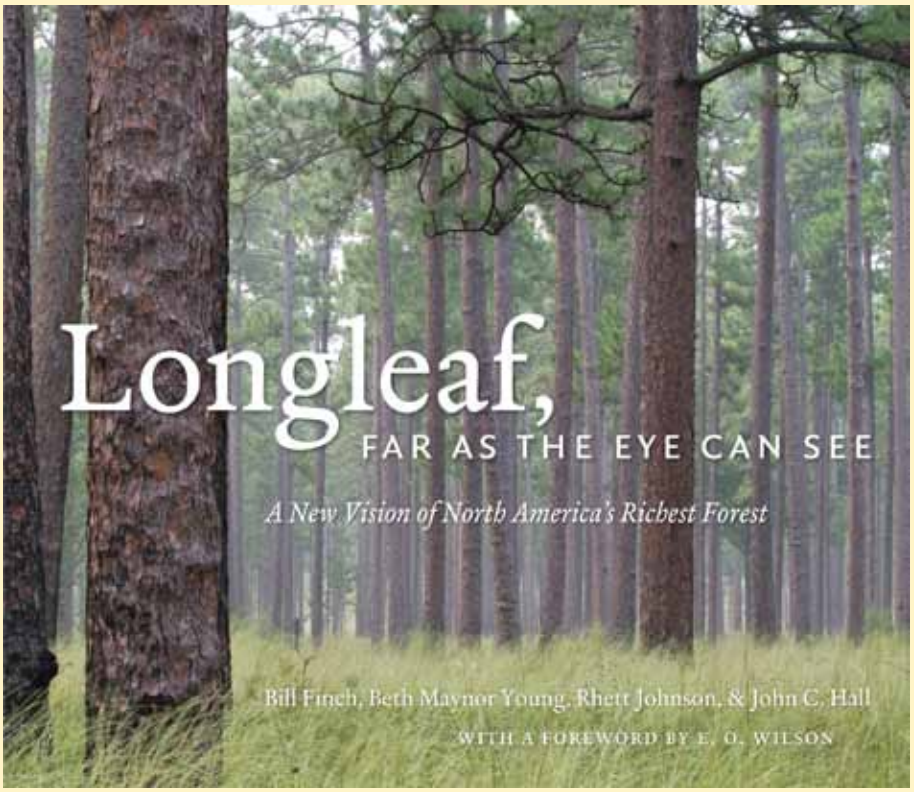
Entertains at Annual Banquet



The longest running musical review in the state of Alabama, "Grits on the Side" is in its 20th year of spoofing all things near and dear to the South. This original musical review is full of skits and songs portraying southerners in a light-hearted, fun manner. Created and directed by Ron Devane, the show features a cast of some of Dothan's most talented performers who sing, dance, and spoof their way into your heart.

"Grits on the Side" has won numerous awards, including two 2002 Alabama Travel and Tourism Awards, and has been featured in several national magazines. *Southern Living Magazine* called it "hilarious and campy." It was chosen to represent Alabama as one of the top four theatrical attractions for the Alabama Year of the Arts. Tourists from all over the country visit the show each year and many return for a second helpin'.

John Hall Discusses Longleaf Pine Forests at Saturday Breakfast Program



John C. Hall is the Curator of the Black Belt Museum and former Director of Interpretation at the Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama. Dr. Hall might be best known for his portrayal of 18th-century naturalist William Bartram and for his work with the new Museum of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Winner of the Phillip D. Reed Memorial Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern Environment in 2010, he has co-authored *Headwaters: A Journey on Alabama Rivers* (University of Alabama Press, 2010) and *Longleaf—As Far As The Eye Can See* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012).

Dr. Hall will discuss the history of the Longleaf pine forests of the State and his coauthored book *Longleaf*, which highlights the special nature of longleaf forests and proposes ways to conserve and expand them.

2012 Historical Markers

CONECUH COUNTY

Anderson Stage Stop

The Old Federal Road connected Washington D.C. to New Orleans, allowing mail, munitions and settlers to come into and through this part of the country. The one remaining stage stop building of the many once along the Old Federal Road is in Monroe County. Its livery stables were on this side of the road, in Conecuh County. Mathew Anderson settled on this property in 1852, farming and running an inn across the road. Carriage, or stagecoach, travelers were allowed to stay in the inn while horsemen were delegated to the livery stables. The well that supplied water still remains.

Burnt Corn Male Academy

Incorporated by legislative act on December 31, 1841, the Burnt Corn Male Academy was built near here, close to a fresh spring. The spot became known as Academy Spring. Despite its name, the institution became coeducational. John Green, who started the first school in Conecuh County near here, and Dr. John Watkins, who lived and practiced nearby, were instrumental in starting the Academy.

Dr. Watkins House

This two and a half story structure with unusual lower front extension was the home of Dr. John Watkins. Dr. Watkins was one of the first and few physicians in this part of the Mississippi Territory. Before coming to Burnt Corn he lived in Claiborne. In addition to being a doctor, he served in the Alabama House of Representatives and Senate and was trustee of the Burnt Corn Male Academy.

First School in Conecuh County

The first known school in Conecuh County, "Student's Retreat," was located near this site. The land was owned by John Green, who also was the school's first teacher. Green served the county in the state House of Representatives and the 1861 Secession Convention. He was elected, too, to the 1875 Constitutional Convention, at the age of 85.

Highway 84—The Old Federal Road

The Old Federal Road was the major highway connecting Washington, D.C. to New Orleans from 1806 through the late 1830s. Only horse paths existed until there was a need for the U.S. Government to get mail, munitions and troops to New Orleans. A treaty signed with the Creek Nation on November 14, 1805 allowed for a Post Road to be built which later became the Old Federal Road. Stops were built every 13 to 16 miles. The Old Federal Road remains the main street of Burnt Corn, Alabama. Notable travelers on this road have included General Lafayette, Francis Scott Key, William Bartram, Colonel Sam Dale, Joseph Thompson Hare (a notorious highwayman) and Vice President Aaron Burr, in 1807 while under arrest for treason.

Holley's Store

Holley's store, opened on the Old Federal Road about 1816, may have been the first mercantile establishment in what became Conecuh County. In 1818, the William Ogly and Eli Stroud families, who had sought refuge in the Ogly cabin north of here, were attacked by a band of Indians led by Savannah Jack. Several members of both families were killed and several others were wounded in this "Ogly Massacre." Elizabeth Stroud, wife of Eli, and the Oglys' daughters Mary Ann and Elizabeth were badly wounded. As the injured were being transported to Claiborne to see Dr. Watkins for medical treatment, the party stopped at Holley's store to care for the failing Mrs. Stroud. Here she died; she was buried in the Middleton Cemetery nearby.

Continued on page 24

Conecuh County *Continued*

Longmire Stagecoach Stop and First Post Office in Conecuh County

Garrett Longmire had an early trading center, tavern and stage stop near here. He served as the postmaster when his store became a post office in 1818, one of the earliest in what was then the Alabama Territory. The Burnt Corn Post Office served as a distribution point for mail to many early post offices in south Alabama. In December of 1820, Longmire became Justice of the Conecuh County Court.

Midway

Midway was one of the first settlements established in Conecuh County along the Post Road which later became the Old Federal Road. Long serving as a hub for Indian trails branching out to the north, northeast and northwest, the Midway town site once included a sawmill and cotton gin. Conecuh, Butler and Monroe counties meet at this spot where Alabama Highway 83 intersects U.S. Highway 47, and Conecuh's part of Highway106 is nearby.

Cullman County

Corbin Homestead

Thomas Monroe Corbin and his wife, Ella, settled here in 1894 on 80 acres and built a home. As pioneers, they cleared the ground with crosscut saws, draft horses, double-bit axes, and shovels. Rocks from the field, removed with a horse-drawn slide, were used to build fences dams, and pillars for their buildings. The original home was a three-bedroom double-pen farmhouse with a rear ell and a barn. A corncrib, smokehouse, buggy and cotton house, woodshed, well, and rock walls were added as the farm grew to 120 acres. The Corbins raised cotton, corn, peanuts, peas, sorghum cane, and peaches, and also maintained cattle, mules, hogs, and chickens. Thomas Corbin was not only a diversified farmer; he was the only veterinarian in the area between 1890 and 1950. Although self-taught, he was licensed by the state in 1915. Animals were brought to the farm for treatment and he made house calls in his buggy. Property added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage 1999.

Governor Guy Hunt

Guy Hunt was born June 17, 1933, in Holly Pond, Alabama, to William Otto and Orene Holcomb Hunt. Guy grew up on the family farm and graduated from Holly Pond High School in 1950 as salutatorian of his class at age sixteen. He married Helen Chambers, daughter of Homer Lee and Mattie Talley Chambers. They had four children. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where he earned the Distinguished Service Medal, he was ordained as a minister in the Primitive Baptist church in 1958. He served as probate judge of Cullman County from 1965 to 1977, and as state chairman of the Alabama delegation to the Republican National Convention in 1976 and 1980. As a reward for his party loyalty, Hunt was appointed as the state director of the federal Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, serving from 1981 until 1985. In 1986, he was elected as the first Republican governor of the State of Alabama since Reconstruction. In his first year in office, he was named one of the nation's top governors by U.S. News & World Report. Governor Hunt was reelected in 1990, but was removed from office in 1993 when convicted of misusing inauguration funds. In 1998, The Board of Pardons and Paroles approved a pardon for him on grounds of innocence. Hunt died January 30, 2009, and was laid to rest alongside Helen in the cemetery of his beloved Mt. Vernon Primitive Baptist Church.

Madison County

Camp Beaty/Brahan Spring Park *Side 1*

Brahan Spring Park, formerly Beaty's Spring, was the site of Camp Beaty, the encampment of Andrew Jackson's army of volunteers and militia after their celebrated non-stop march of "32 miles in 5 hours" from Fayetteville, Tennessee on October 11, 1813. The urgency of the forced march was in response to a threatened attack on the city of Huntsville by a war party of the Creek Nation. Jackson had previously dispatched Colonel John Coffee's Second Regiment of Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Riflemen, including David Crockett, to scout the area and to restore confidence to the frontier.

Camp Beaty/Brahan Spring Park *Side 2*

The threatened attack never took place and the army, nearly 4000 strong, moved on to begin the campaign that became the Creek War of 1813–1814, part of the War of 1812. Camp Beaty served as a staging and supply area throughout the War with rent being paid to Captain Robert Beaty. Beaty had purchased this land from the Federal Government on August 28, 1809, and later sold it to John Brahan in 1819. The property changed hands numerous times until 1899 when Merrimack Manufacturing Company purchased the site. Merrimack's successor, Huntsville Manufacturing Company, deeded the land to the City of Huntsville in 1951, to be used as a city park.

Superconductivity Discovery

A graduate student from The University of Alabama in Huntsville achieved a major advance in science at this site on January 29, 1987. He discovered that a material composed of Yttrium, Barium, Copper, and Oxygen would superconduct—show no electrical resistance—at 93 degrees Kelvin. The discovery changed how electrical power was transmitted and used. *Sponsored by the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH Campus, Huntsville).*

Marshall County

Shoal Creek Baptist Church

The church was founded on March 14, 1886 by charter members R. J. Riddle, Julie Riddle, W. J. Wright, A. M. Preston, W. B. Scott and F. E. Scott. It is named after Shoal Creek, which rises up less than a mile from the church grounds and empties into the Tennessee River near Paint Rock Bluff. Before the original building was erected in 1887, services were held under a brush arbor. The present sanctuary was built in 1956, the education building in 1979, and the fellowship hall in 1993. Shoal Creek's first pastor was P. M. Thompson. Montgomery K. Taylor, another of the church's early pastors, served here for thirty years. He also served as the first pastor of Arab First Baptist during his term at Shoal Creek. As he had requested during his tenure, he was laid to rest behind the church in the grave plot closest to the pulpit.

Monroe County

Burnt Corn Spring

The historical Burnt Corn Spring is located near this point on the Old Federal Road—the spring poured into the west branch of the creek that took its name. James Cornells had a residence at the spring before 1813. In the summer of 1813, a war party of 280 Creek Indians burned Cornells' residence and corncribs while in route to obtain guns and ammunition from the Spanish governor in Pensacola. Some 20 miles south of here, a party of one-third of the warriors returning from Pensacola encountered Col. James Caller and 180 Mississippi militiamen who were intent on intercepting them. Caller and his men camped at this site on July 26th, before turning south on the Wolf Trail to engage the Indians in a skirmish at a ford on Burnt Corn Creek. What had begun as a Creek civil war spilled over into this Battle of Burnt Corn Creek, the opening of hostilities between the warring Creeks and white settlers in the area. With the massacre at Mims' stockade the next month—August 30, 1813—the Creek Indian War of 1813–1814 was underway. A U.S. post office was established at this spring in October 1817, about the time Mississippi became a State and Alabama a Territory.

Montgomery County

Bertha Pleasant Williams Library at the Rosa Parks Avenue Branch

Side 1: Bertha Pleasant Williams

First black employee of Montgomery library system, Bertha Pleasant Williams received a high school degree in Fairfield, AL in 1939, a degree from Alabama State College (now ASU) in 1943, and, in 1949, a BLS degree from Atlanta University. Her first job was elementary teacher at Snow Hill Institute, teaching all subjects. Upon Montgomery's funding a public library for blacks in 1948, Williams came as librarian, receiving special recognition "so that adults and children of Afro-American communities can have their first use of Public Library Services." For twelve years served in this capacity, and in 1960, when new branch library opened on Cleveland Avenue, she became the Head Librarian, working there for over nine years. Upon leaving city library, she moved to Alabama State University Library for seven years and as Head of the Rare Book Collection and archives for another seven. In 1993, Alabama State University recognized her fifty years of contributions to library service and education with a special Golden Graduation Diploma. Bertha Williams served as President of Montgomery Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. between 1954–1956 as she continued as Head Librarian of the Union Street Library for Coloreds. The Alabama Library Association also honored Bertha Williams.

Side 2: Rosa Parks Branch Library

Second public library for blacks in City of Montgomery, this building opened in 1960 as Montgomery Branch Library on Cleveland Avenue. Designed by architect James Miller Davis, it served the black population at a time the main facility on High Street prohibited their patronage. Planned to contain 15,000 volumes, this structure has meeting rooms and areas for adults, teen-agers and children. Judge Frank Johnson ordered desegregation of Montgomery libraries in 1962. The first public library for blacks opened in 1948 in two rooms of the Community House of City Federation of Negro Women's Clubs on South Union Street. Librarian Bertha Williams, the first black employee of the city library system, led that branch for its twelve years of operation and became head librarian of this one upon its opening. Change of name to Rosa Parks Branch came with re-naming of Cleveland Avenue for heroine of Bus Boycott. *Sponsored by the Fortitude Foundation-Montgomery Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*

Continued on page 26

Montgomery County *Continued*

Brewer Memorial Church

Brewer Church began in 1898 with 10 members in a one-room structure at its current location in Cecil, AL. Construction of the sanctuary occurred a few years later. Brewer Church was named for its first pastor, George Evans Brewer, a former State Senator and commander of the 46th AL Regiment in the Confederate Army. Rev. Brewer was also instrumental in establishing the Talladega School for the Deaf and Blind and Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa. After 1968, the church sat silent for many years due to an aging & declining membership. In 2008, local families revived the church and its cemetery, with blessings from the Montgomery Baptist Assoc. *Sponsored by East Montgomery County Historical Society.*

The First White House of the Confederacy

On this site stood the First White House of the Confederacy. William Sayre built his townhouse here between 1832 and 1835. On February 21, 1861, the provisional Confederate Congress leased it for the Executive Residence. President Jefferson Davis and his family lived here before the CSA capital moved to Richmond. The White House Association saved the house, moved it next to the Capitol, restored it, dedicated it as a museum, and gave it to the people of Alabama on June 3, 1921. *Sponsored by the White House Association of Alabama.*

Selma-to-Montgomery March *Side 1*

The Selma-to-Montgomery March ended here on March 25, 1965, when 25,000 civil rights marchers arrived at the Alabama State Capitol to demand the right to vote for African Americans. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders addressed the marchers and the nation, culminating a series of demonstrations that began in Selma on March 7—"Bloody Sunday"—when some 600 peaceful protesters were savagely beaten by lawmen as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Selma-to-Montgomery March *Side 2*

In January 1965, activists led by Dr. King launched a series of voter registration drives and demonstrations to secure the right of black citizens to register and vote in Alabama elections—a constitutional right impeded by Gov. George Wallace and other officials. They were met with state-sponsored terrorism. On the night of February 18 in Marion, amid a melee that began when police started clubbing peaceful protesters, a state trooper shot and killed a young black man, Jimmie Lee Jackson. Infuriated by Jackson's murder, leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference called upon residents of Alabama's Black Belt counties to peacefully march on the Alabama Capitol to demand voting reforms. Less than five months after the last of the three marches, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law. *Sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Kenneth Mullinax Foundation and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Upsilon Lambda Chapter.*

Pickens County

R. J. Kirksey High School

1958–1971. Summerville Industrial High School, the first high school for African Americans in the southern part of Pickens County, was moved to this site in 1958, becoming Robert Jackson Kirksey High School. The new name honored a long-term member of the school board and donor of the land. Otis James Brooks, principal of the Summerville Industrial High School since its 1937 beginning, continued in that role at Kirksey High School, remaining there until 1971. Pickens County schools were integrated in that year and the school was designated to serve as a middle school, becoming Aliceville Middle School. *Sponsored by Summerville/Kirksey Alumni.*

Pike County

First Missionary Baptist Church

Organized July 11, 1872, as a Regularly Constituted Independent Missionary Baptist Church, the church was the first African American Baptist church in the Troy area. The Reverend Wright of Perote was called as the first pastor; he was known as "John the Baptist" for his fiery preaching. The first regular church service was held in a brush arbor; the first baptismal service was held in 1873. The men of the church bought three acres of land on Lake Street where the first building, the Baptist Bottom Church, was built. A school, the Lake Street Baptist Academy, followed on the same property. As the congregation outgrew the original building, a new site was purchased and, in July 1906, a new structure was completed. In 1958, that church building was destroyed by fire. The following year, under the leadership of Rev. Collier, the edifice was reconstructed, an event celebrated on the second Sunday in October by the Pastor and members who marched from the Masonic Hall, where services had been held, to the rebuilt church.



Shelby County

James Daniel Hardy *Side 1*

May 14, 1918–February 19, 2003. James Hardy and his twin brother, Julian, were born and reared in Newala, Alabama, 3 miles east of Montevallo. He attended the consolidated grammar school nearby which had 3 rooms for the 6 grades, then attended high school in Montevallo. James received his BA from the University of Alabama in 1938, and his MD in 1942 from the University of Pennsylvania, and continued there for his surgical residency and junior faculty experience. In 1951, he became Director of Surgical Research at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. Three years later he became the first chairman of the Department of Surgery at the new University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1987. As a surgeon, researcher, teacher, and author Dr. Hardy made signal contributions to medicine over his long career.

James Daniel Hardy *Side 2*

May 14, 1918–February 19, 2003. In 1963 Dr. Hardy and co-workers did the first human lung transplant. In 1964 he and co-workers excised a living human heart for the first time and performed the first heart transplant in a human utilizing a chimpanzee heart. The procedure emphasized the need for generally accepted criteria for brain death so donor organs could be secured. Dr. Hardy trained over 200 surgeons. He authored, co-authored, or edited 23 books, including 2 that became standard surgical texts, and 2 autobiographies; published over 500 articles in medical journals; and served on numerous editorial boards and as editor-in-chief of the World Journal of Surgery. Among numerous other honors James Hardy served as president of the Southern Surgical Association, the American Surgical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the International Surgical Society, and the Society of University Surgeons.

Tuscaloosa County

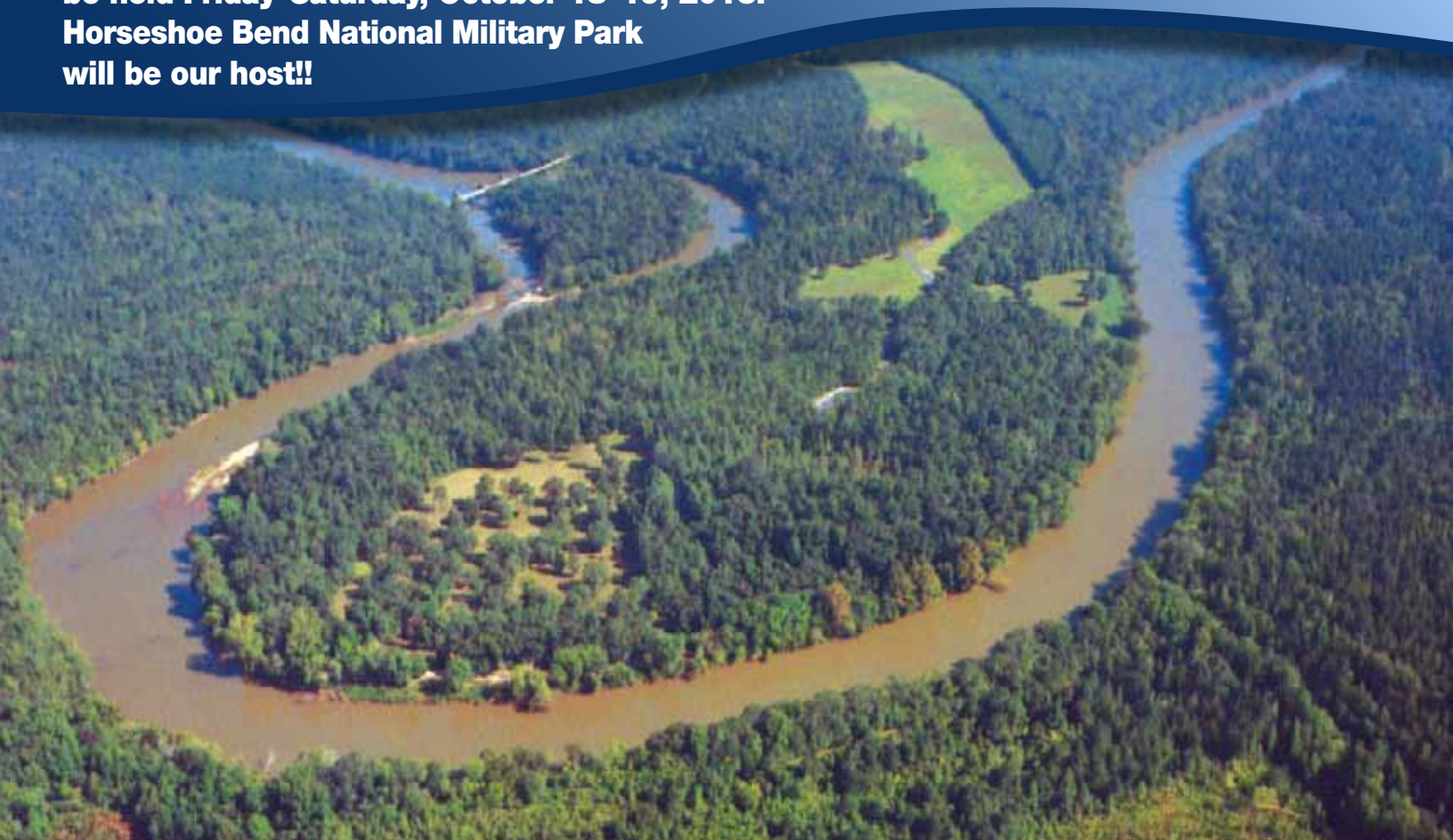
Zeta Tau Alpha, Nu Chapter

Nu chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha was installed as the second sorority at the University of Alabama. On April 11, 1910 the chapter's first nine women were initiated in the Sigma Nu hall. In 1925, Zeta Tau Alpha built the first sorority house on the campus. The original house had only three rooms and was located on Thomas Street, just off University Boulevard. This house was erected in 1962, preserving the large columns from the original house on Thomas Street. Nu chapter celebrated its Centennial Anniversary on April 11, 2010.

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SAVE THE DATE: The annual fall pilgrimage will be held Friday–Saturday, October 18–19, 2013. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park will be our host!!



Alabama Historical Association

VOLUME 29
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2014



Join us for the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association Scottsboro, Alabama, April 10-12, 2014

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Cover image: Scottsboro Depot Museum, courtesy of Caroline Lynch Minor

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Founded in 1947, The Alabama Historical Association is the oldest statewide historical society in Alabama. The AHA provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past through publications, meetings, historical markers, and other programs. The AHA is a volunteer-led and membership-supported organization. Our members are from every walk of life but share a common interest in Alabama history and a belief in its value for society today. Visit www.alabamahistory.net for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gayle Thomas

By the time you read this message, my term as AHA president will be nearing its end. It has been a full and enjoyable year, and has provided me far more numerous pleasant experiences than challenges. Our Fall Pilgrimage was a success despite the failure of the weather or the Congress to cooperate, and we now look forward to a productive annual meeting.

Months ago the decision was made to bring the AHA's annual meeting to Scottsboro. The fact that our meeting has never been held in northeast Alabama contributed to that decision, which was made despite the fact that Scottsboro is a 6 hour drive from my home. The local arrangements committee, chaired by Ann Chambless with the help of other Jackson County Historical Society members Jen Stewart, Susan Fisher, Kelly Goodowen, and Judge John Graham, has thoughtfully planned tour stops to showcase the diversity of Scottsboro and Jackson County and I hope you will enjoy visiting the sites that are described elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

There are, however, many unique sites in Jackson County that are not on our tours because time would not permit. One of these is Buck's Pocket State Park, which is situated in three Alabama counties. Featuring breathtaking rugged mountains and canyons, the park also advertises itself as the "Haven for Defeated Politicians," who come here to overcome their political wounds.

Continued on page 4



Photo courtesy of Terry Martin

Woodville, the oldest town in Jackson County, was the county seat of Decatur County. When Decatur County was abolished, Woodville was attached to Jackson County.

Jackson County has more caves than any other county in the United States, making it a favorite destination for spelunkers. At one of the most popular such attractions, Neversink Pit, a limestone sinkhole near Scottsboro, visitors must use a rope to get to the floor of the cave. The Sauta Cave National Wildlife Preserve is home to the largest population of the gray bat east of the Mississippi River. People from all over the US come to view the emergence of approximately 250,000 gray bats from the cave in the early evening. Since the cave is not open to the public, the audience must stand outside to watch the emergence, and the prepared observer brings an umbrella as the bats fly overhead.

The Walls of Jericho, named by a traveling minister who felt the majestic beauty of this area was so breathtaking that it merited a biblical name, opened as state park in 2004, and has been called the Grand Canyon of the South. The Upper Paint Rock River runs through the park and provides a home for a number of rare and endangered species. One of the more notable creatures of this area is the rare Tennessee cave salamander, which is only found in parts of Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. Rare and endangered mussels inhabit the Paint Rock River, which is the only place in the world that the Pale Lilliput and Alabama Lampshell varieties are found. Other imperiled species that call the Paint Rock home are the palezone shiner, the sawfin shiner, blotchside logperch and the snail darter. Davey Crockett visited this area in the late 1700s because his family owned land near here.





While in Scottsboro you might want to stop by Payne's Soda Shop for an ice cream treat. Located on the Court House Square, Payne's has been in business since 1869. Another unique Scottsboro activity that has endured is "The First Monday Weekend," which was begun over 100 years ago. Originally called "Horse Swapper's Day," it provided an arena to buy, trade, or swap horses or mules and it also coincided with court day. Though vendors are no longer allowed to bring live animals for barter or trade, other items such as homemade jams, jellies, furniture, and most everything else under the sun is offered for sale, barter, or trade. Spaces are free to the vendors, except for ones that have a red mark on the curb, and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scottsboro is also home to well-publicized business called Unclaimed Baggage, which has drawn media attention from some of the top TV shows, celebrities and printed publications. People from all over the nation, and indeed the world, have come to search for bargains at this business which was started in 1970 with a borrowed pickup truck and a $300 loan.

Central to Jackson County's economy is the TVA's Lake Guntersville. Not only did the TVA's investment bring electricity and jobs, but also it provided beautiful scenery, recreational opportunities, and increased property values. TVA's investment came with a measure of prosperity for not only Jackson County but all the northernmost counties of Alabama.

I hope to see you at our annual meeting in April, and I am sure that among the many treasures Jackson County has to offer, you will find some that will be enjoyable and memorable.

Photo courtesy of Terry Martin

Scottsboro:

Making the Past Work for the Future

By Ann B. Chambless, Founding President of the Jackson County Historical Society

Scottsboro was conceived and born due to Robert Thomas Scott's visions from his past and his dreams for the future. Between 1848 and 1858, R. T. Scott acquired 1,240 acres of choice land with minimal flood prone acreage that was surrounded by mountain ridges on three sides and a short distance from Sauta Creek and the Tennessee River on the fourth side. One of his first enterprises was to establish a grist mill and a saw mill that provided lumber for building business houses and residences. For this reason, Scott's Mill became the name of the post office

Continued on page 6



Jackson County Courthouse Clock Tower, courtesy of Caroline Lynch Minor

established in May 1854. Shortly before the 1860 Federal Census, the name of Scott's Mill was changed to Scottsboro.

Due to Robert T. Scott's forward vision, it was no coincidence the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company's right-of-way traversed the center of Scott's property. He knew the railroad would bring the world to his fledgling village. The first passenger was delivered to Scott's Mill railroad station in March 1856.

By May 1857, the line was offering regular service over the entire 272-mile route from Stevenson, Alabama, to Memphis, Tennessee. From 1857 to 1860, Scottsboro was served by a wooden platform with a small, wooden shed-like building. In 1860, the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company began construction of Scottsboro's first brick building, a combination passenger-freight depot that was opened in January 1861. It is easy to imagine the pride Robert T. Scott felt on that momentous opening day. Today, that building is Scottsboro's crown jewel.

Robert T. Scott and his saw mill partner, Joseph Wilson, were both killed by Union troops in 1863. A large steam boiler was one of the items in the R. T. Scott estate inventory made shortly after the Civil War. This same document stated the saw mill and a shingle mill grip were burned by Union troops.

While the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company was building its tracks, Robert T. Scott had the acreage on both sides of the track surveyed and a town plat was developed. He quickly sold lots on each side of the railroad. The lots were 33 feet across the front and extended 133 feet north to Chestnut Street. The first business houses were located on the north side of the track opposite the depot.



Sage Town, a group of 19th-century buildings adjacent to the Brown-Proctor House, provides visitors with an authentic view of early local architecture. Photo courtesy of Terry Martin and the Greater Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

Today we know that street as Maple Avenue. However, in 1860, this was called Main Street.

In the beginning, what is known today as Houston Street was called Railroad Street. The street on the south side of the tracks known today as Mary Hunter Avenue was first called Railroad Avenue. When the town was first incorporated in 1869, the city limits extended one-half mile in all directions from the Scottsboro Depot.

Robert T. Scott sold 40 acres on the west end of Railroad Avenue to John Whitfield who, in turn, sold lots for family residences and a hotel. Martin and Nancy Conley built the first brick residence in Scottsboro on a lot they purchased from John Whitfield. In November 1868, this house was rented by Probate Judge David Tate as a repository for county probate records until the courthouse construction in Scottsboro was completed in 1870.

Elizabeth Ann Scott, Robert T. Scott's widow, donated the site for a courthouse in Scottsboro. The Scott family and John Whitfield donated every other lot around the courthouse square to the county. Proceeds from the sale of these lots were used to defray the cost of building the courthouse.

When the county seat was moved from Bellefonte to Scottsboro in 1868, the various county court offices were first located in a building owned by T. J. Woods (on Main Street diagonally across from the depot) in the building that had also served as Scottsboro's first school and church. A temporary building for use by the Circuit Clerk was soon constructed on what is now Laurel Street. The Courthouse was completed in 1870, and was called "the pride of Jackson County" although it is doubtful the good people of Stevenson took much pride in the building as they felt the privilege of serving as the county seat had been "snatched away" from them by the good people of Scottsboro.

With the advent of the new courthouse and flourishing railroad traffic, Scottsboro began to grow after the Civil War. Most of the Bellefonte business and professional people who had been "burned out" by Federal troops during the Civil War relocated to Scottsboro. There was a building boom from 1875 to 1895 around the courthouse square, and Scottsboro soon outdistanced much older towns as Jackson County's prime farm-to-market center.

The next major boon for growth in Scottsboro followed the advent of the Tennessee Valley Authority and its benefits of cheap electricity for the town and its urban areas.

The citizens supported educational and cultural facilities/activities, and Scottsboro's population and business community flourished. Today's city and business leaders continue to make the past work for the future as they introduce new ideas and growth in Scottsboro, which is truly "Some Place Special."

Join us for the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association Scottsboro, Alabama, April 10-12, 2014

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **MAKING HISTORY PUBLIC WORKSHOP**
Scottsboro Depot Museum (pre-registration required)

2:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **PRE-MEETING TOURS (see map in newsletter for directions)**

- Cowan House
- Ft. Harker
- Russell Cave National Monument
- Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

6:00 p.m. **RECEPTION**
Brown-Proctor House, home of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center, 208 S. Houston Street



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

8:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION AND BOOK SALES**
Page Administration Building, 305 South Scott Street

9:30 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION**

10:45 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

SESSION A:
A conversation with contributors to *The Yellowhammer War: The Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama*

SESSION B:
"Frontier Liberalism: Alabama Constitution of 1819,"
Jim Lewis, Birmingham

"Sarah Haynsworth Gayle on the Southwest Frontier,"
Sarah Wiggins, University of Alabama

"Winston County, Alabama During Secession and Civil War,"
David Davenport, Sam Houston State University

SESSION C:
"Bullets without Ballots: Alabama Soldiers and the State Election of 1863,"
Ben H. Severance, Auburn University Montgomery

"Emancipation and the Alabama Supreme Court,"
Mills Thornton, University of Michigan

"Black Belt Populism: Choctaw County Politics, 1880-1902,"
Sam Webb, University of Alabama Birmingham

Noon **LUNCH**
Page Administration Building Gymnasium

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **AFTERNOON TOURS**
Scottsboro Depot Museum
Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center
Skyline Farms Historic Rock Store Museum
Mason-Robinson Home

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. **PRE-BANQUET RECEPTION**
Ivy Knoll, 804 Benwood Drive

7:00 p.m. **ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**
Page Administration Building Gymnasium

Keynote address by Dr. Daniel Feller, University of Tennessee

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST**
Page Administration Building Gymnasium

9:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION AND POSTER SESSION**
Page Administration Building

9:45 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION**

10:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

SESSION A:
"Alabama Constitutions: From the Frontier to the Eve of Disfranchisement,"
Paul Pruitt Jr., University of Alabama

"The 1899 Constitutional Convention: How Disfranchisement Failed in Alabama in 1899, and How it Succeeded in 1901,"
R. Volney Riser, University of West Alabama

"The Wounded Elephant Loose in the Land: The Tax Burden of the 1901 Constitution on Alabama's Future,"
J. Wayne Flynt, Auburn University

SESSION B:
"Skyline Farms: The Story of a New Deal Settlement Project,"
David Campbell, Northeast Alabama Community College

"'We Hope He Brings a Long-Handled Shovel,' Good Roads Days in Alabama, 1912-1915,"
Marty Olliff, Troy University Dothan

"Views from the Bench: Judicial Framing and the Scottsboro Boys"
Steven P. Brown, Auburn University

SESSION C:
"The Art of Writing History,"
George Rable, University of Alabama

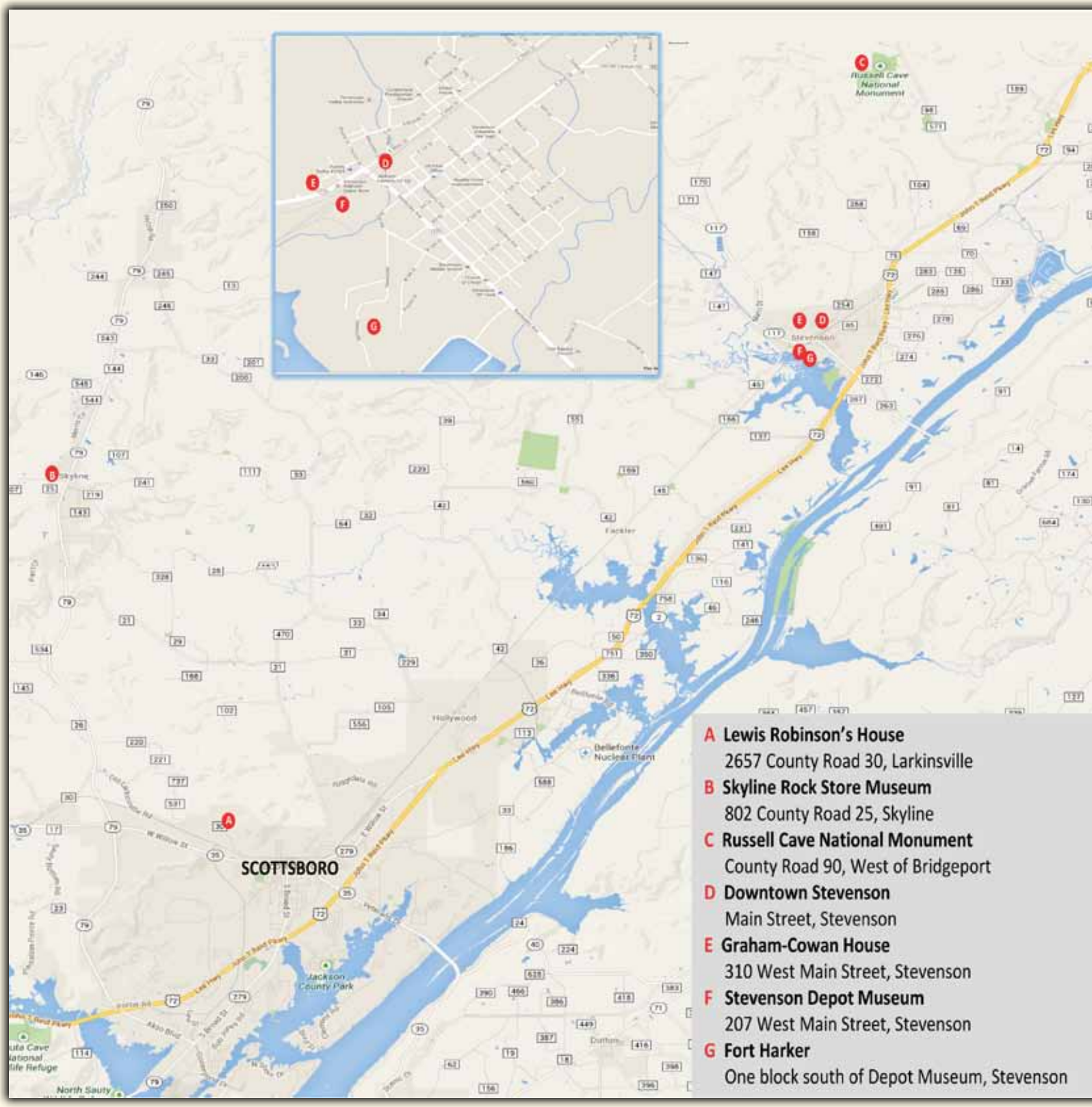
"The Craft of Writing History,"
Guy Hubbs, Birmigham-Southern College

"Copyright Law for Historians,"
George Kobler, Huntsville

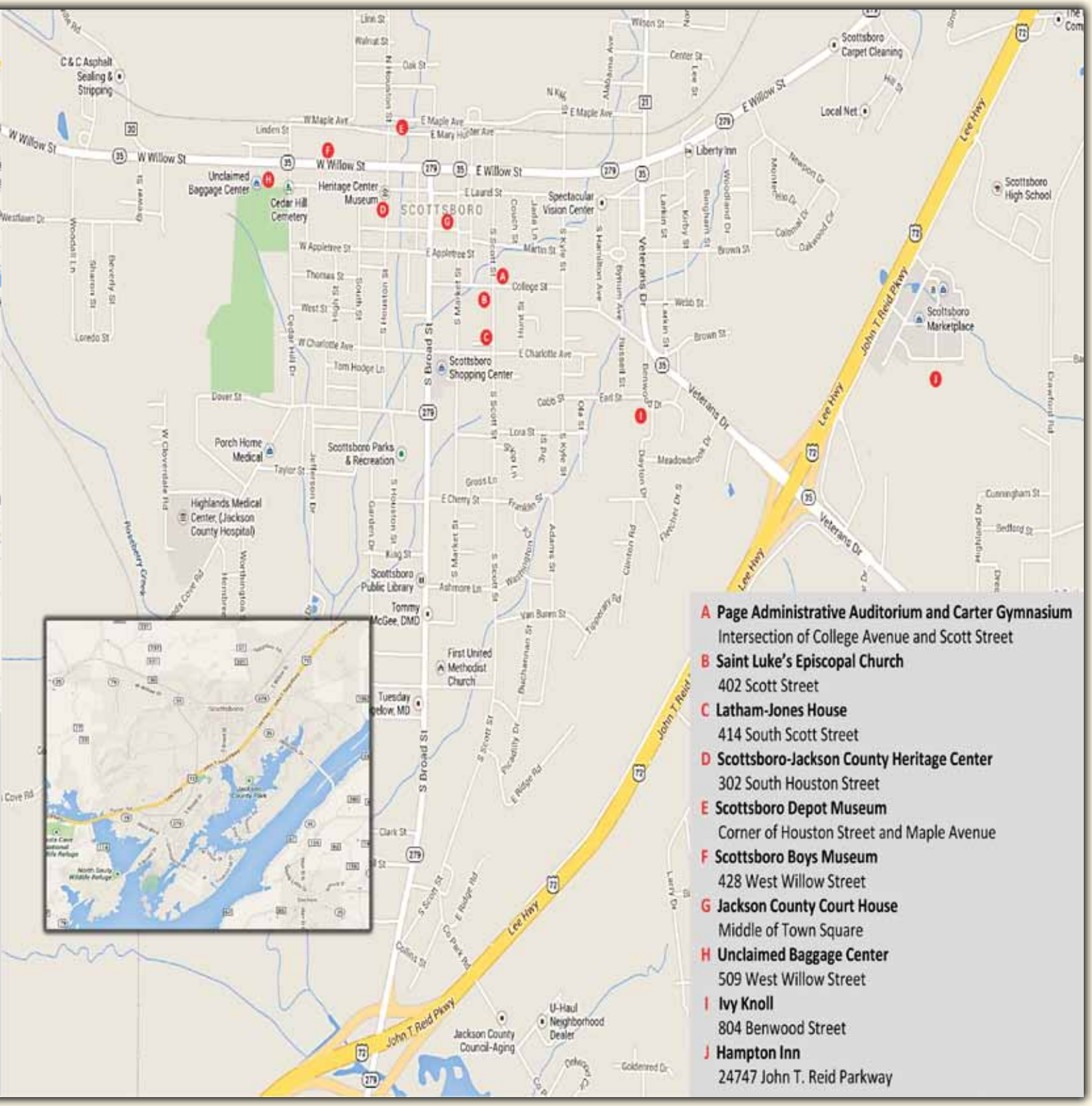
11:45 a.m. **ANNUAL LUNCHEON**
Page Administration Building Gymnasium

Presidential Address by Gayle Thomas

MEETING SITES AND ACCOMMODATIONS



HAMPTON INN & SUITES SCOTTSBORO
24747 John T. Reid Parkway, Scottsboro, AL 35768 / 256-259-5200
Make reservations by April 1 and mention the AHA to receive the group rate of $85 per room per night.


A Page Administrative Auditorium and Carter Gymnasium
Intersection of College Avenue and Scott Street
B Saint Luke's Episcopal Church
402 Scott Street
C Latham-Jones House
414 South Scott Street
D Scottsboro-Jackson County Heritage Center
302 South Houston Street
E Scottsboro Depot Museum
Corner of Houston Street and Maple Avenue
F Scottsboro Boys Museum
428 West Willow Street
G Jackson County Court House
Middle of Town Square
H Unclaimed Baggage Center
509 West Willow Street
I Ivy Knoll
804 Benwood Street
J Hampton Inn
24747 John T. Reid Parkway
SCOTTSBORO
S Broad St
Lee Hwy
John T Reid Pkwy
Veterans Dr
E Willow St
W Willow St
Scottsboro Shopping Center
Scottsboro Public Library
Scottsboro Parks & Recreation
Highlands Medical Center (Jackson County Hospital)
Heritage Center Museum
Cedar Hill Cemetery
Unclaimed Baggage Center
Spectacular Vision Center
Scottsboro Carpet Cleaning
Liberty Inn
Local Net
Scottsboro High School
Scottsboro Marketplace
Porch Home Medical
Tommy McGee, DMD
First United Methodist Church
Jackson County Council-Aging
U-Haul Neighborhood Dealer

The Cowan House

310 West Main Street, Stevenson



The Cowan House is a classic Greek Revival farmhouse constructed around 1850 by Thomas A. Nance. William A. Austin (1812-1875), an Alabama state senator, Reconstruction-era commissioner of oaths, former merchant, and staunch Unionist, acquired the house in 1855. Family tradition says the house was used as a Civil War hospital during the brief Confederate occupation of Stevenson. It later became a headquarters for Union Brevet Brigadier General Wladmir Krzynowski and his staff while the Union forces occupied Stevenson, 1863-1864. Wartime maps and other documents sometimes referred to it as "Fort Stevenson."

In the late 1870s, William A. Austin sold the house to William A. Cowan; the house remained in his family until 1992. The Cowan House was the scene of countless social events during the 20th century. Stevenson's elders recall that "there always seemed to be a party going on there," including events as diverse as festive dances, ladies' teas, weddings and even funerals. The Cowan House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1978.

AHA visitors to the Cowan House in Stevenson will be able to hear more about its interesting history from the current owners, Judge and Mrs. John H. Graham, on Thursday afternoon between 2 and 5 p.m.

Ft. Harker

Constructed by the Union Army in the summer of 1862 and expanded in 1864, using soldiers and freed slaves, Ft. Harker was built on a broad hill a quarter mile east of town. It overlooked Crow Creek and was well within firing range of Stevenson's strategic railroad lines, supply depots and warehouses.

Ft. Harker was an earthen redoubt, 150 feet square, with walls 14 feet high, surrounded by an 8 foot deep dry powder moat. It contained 7 cannon platforms, a bomb-proof powder magazine, a draw-bridge entrance and an 8-sided wooden blockhouse at its center. Soldiers building the fort reported that "the soil is very hard, requiring the continual use of a pick." Despite that, Ft. Harker was critical to Union plans. The officer in charge was ordered by his commanding general "to work night and day" to complete the fort "as rapidly as possible."

One other large fort, two smaller redoubts and at least seven blockhouses were constructed along the railroad lines at Stevenson during the Civil War. No major fighting occurred here, but skirmishes and sniper attacks were common as territory traded hands between Union and Confederate forces.

Photo courtesy of Monica Davis





Russell Cave

Russell Cave National Monument, located in Bridgeport, Alabama near the Tennessee line, is an archaeological site that provides detailed information regarding the early inhabitants of the southeastern United States. Human remains and artifacts, such as spearheads, arrowheads, and pottery have been found that provide clues of life dating back to 10,000 B.C. Early inhabitants of the area survived by hunting deer, black bears, and other smaller animals. They also collected water from the Tennessee River and gathered nuts and edible plants that grew in the forested area.



The cave structure consists of six entryways, with the main entrance opening to the east, thereby facing the morning sun and blocking cold winds from the north. The cave, stretching a little over seven miles, is the third longest in Alabama. It was named after Revolutionary War veteran Colonel Thomas Russell, and it was selected as a National Monument in 1961 during the presidency of John F. Kennedy.

Russell Cave is currently open to visitors every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Visitors can take guided tours to learn the history of the cave and the people who lived there thousands of years ago, or they can enjoy a nice hike along one of Alabama's designated bird trails to view the 115 species of birds that live in the area.

Photo credit: National Park Service

Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum

The Stevenson Railroad Depot Museum is located at 207 West Main Street in the heart of downtown Stevenson and is situated between the tracks of two major railroads.

The depot museum's mission is to preserve an important part of railroading history through the display of related artifacts. The museum, which also chronicles modern times, displays hundreds of artifacts from the area's past that are of interest to young and old alike. These include artifacts recalling Native American culture, pioneer life, and Civil War events. Of all these artifacts, the largest, and one of which Stevenson is most proud, is the historic depot building itself.

The depot, which was built in 1872 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, stands on the ruins of Stevenson's first railroad depot, which was built around 1852 for common use by the Nashville & Chattanooga and the Memphis & Charleston Railroads. That original depot was destroyed either during, or shortly after, the Civil War. Bricks salvaged may have been used in the building of the present structure.

Photo courtesy of Monica Davis



Reception

BROWN-PROCTOR HOUSE

208 S. HOUSTON STREET, SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA



The simple but elegant Brown-Proctor House, with its neo-classical revival porch and pillars, typifies one aspect of the romantic Southern tradition. Leading citizens of Scottsboro have owned the house since it was built in 1881. It was, therefore, appropriate that the house was to become a focal point of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center. The Brown-Proctor House has been placed on the *Alabama Tapestry of Historic Places*, the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage and the National Register of Historic Places.

All the elements of the Scottsboro-Jackson Heritage Center have been designed to bridge the past, present, and future for the citizens of northeast Alabama. The museum is programmed for local and regional historical artifacts and exhibits. The library houses genealogical records, area histories, and research materials.

The Brown-Proctor House is an appropriate location for important historical materials since its owners have been actively involved in shaping the history of Scottsboro and the State of Alabama. Completed in 1881 by John A. Brown, the home was advertised for sale in 1882:

> *Mr. John A. Brown having fully made up his mind to disengage himself from a multiplicity of oppressive cares and responsibilities, and on account of failing health, to pursue a business demanding less physical exertion as well as mental wear and tear, offers for sale, and is determined to sell, the following valuable property, viz:*
>
> *A new two-story brick residence in the town of Scottsboro, with six rooms besides spacious halls, on a beautiful eminence on a lot of ground containing two acres – fine garden, young fruit trees and all the conveniences that good taste, energy, and a liberal expenditure of money could secure. The residence and improvements are just completed in modern style, and cost in cash, beside the labor of the owner, $3,200. He will make a sacrifice to secure the sale of this property.*

Mr. A.W. Brooks purchased the property in 1883 and then sold it to General John R. Coffee in June 1884. General Coffee returned to Jackson County after the Mexican-American War, and he became a leading citizen and one of the largest land owners in the county. The General died in 1896. Ownership of the house passed to his daughter, whose husband, Charles W. Brown (John A. Brown's half-brother), served as a representative and senator in the Alabama Legislature.



In 1907, prominent lawyer John Franklin Proctor purchased the house. Earlier, Mr. Proctor served as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, the Alabama Senate, and the Constitutional Convention of 1901. Mr. Proctor served as a solicitor in Scottsboro until his death in 1939, and he was one of the court-appointed attorneys in the 1931 Scottsboro Boys' trial. Two more generations of the Proctor lawyers lived in the house.

Mr. John F. Proctor extensively remodeled and enlarged the house between 1907 and 1911. Additional bedrooms, a new staircase, and a new kitchen were built. The neo-classical revival portico was also added at this time. The Brown-Proctor House was vacated in 1974. The house sat empty until the Scottsboro Museum Commission acquired the property in 1981. *Photo courtesy of Caroline Lynch Minor.*

JCHA to Offer Walking Tour Following the Reception

Following the reception, the Jackson County Historical Association tour guides invite you to walk seven blocks with them and enjoy the stately homes in Scottsboro's College Hill Historic District. The tour will include the Jackson County Court House, Scottsboro First Baptist Church (established 1868), the Page Administration Complex, the nave of St. Luke's Episcopal Church (which will resound with organ music of St. Luke's music director Carolyn Davis), and the Jones House. AHA members may choose to park their vehicles around the south and west sides of Scottsboro's public square on the evening of April 10, since parking is limited at the Heritage Center. Parking on the square will put those who opt for the walking tour to be one block closer to their vehicles when the tour is completed.



The Mason-Robinson House (near Larkinsville)

Winfield Scott Mason built this house near Larkinsville between 1853 and 1857. The property contained some appurtenant structures, which likely including a small cabin. Current owner Lewis Robinson believes the east side of the house is a remnant of the old cabin, since the interior mouldings and fireplaces are different from those on the west side and center hall. The original property consisted of 159 acres but was increased to 500 acres before the Mason's death in 1861.

During the Civil War, federal troops commandeered the house and used it as a battalion station to guard the railroad and field hospital. One of the rooms is rumored to have bloodstains on the floor, which was later covered over with pine flooring to stop winter drafts.

The property remained in the family until 1897, when it received a new tin-shingle roof, a shed in the rear, and new orchards to complement fresh landscaping. A local Shelton family lived in the house from the 1940s to 1950s, and they preserved photographs depicting the smokehouse/kitchen, as well as the rises in the fields where slave and sharecropper cabins once stood. Mr. Robinson worked to restore the house to its original character, including the original exterior and interior paint colors found in several rooms.

Mr. Robinson furnished the home in classic furniture from the 1820-1850 period, including a recent acquisition of an Anthony G. Quervelle game table and gilt pier mirror signed by Lewis Keith. Mr. Robinson's home also includes more pedestrian furniture from the period, and visitor will have a chance to view locally-made pieces, on of which is signed by its maker. The owner's favorite rooms are the south-facing center hall, southwest dining room, and his office in the northeast room of the house.

Robinson's current projects include the restoration of the front garden, performed according to the last, remaining remnant of landscaping: thousands of daffodils that presumably lined a white picket fence with boxwoods on the garden side. He is also returning the long destroyed oak alley with baby Water Oaks grown from acorns produced by the few trees remaining that followed the mile-long plantation road to the railroad tracks. Lewis Robinson looks forward to greeting AHA visitors on Friday afternoon, April 11, 2014. *Photo courtesy of Caroline Lynch Minor.*

Skyline Farms Rock Store Museum in Skyline, Alabama

Skyline Farms Colony on Cumberland Mountain in Jackson County was established in 1933 as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's work programs. One of the first steps taken was construction of the road now known as Alabama Highway 79 North. Local men were employed to cut the road up the mountain and through the center of the Colony. The early settlers harvested mountain timber and sandstone to build homes, a school, and a community store. The federal government provided breeding stock, seeds, and other essentials needed by the settlers to begin their new life within the Skyline Farms Colony. The plan called for the settlers to sell any excess from their farms to the community store as payment for their homesteads.

Today, the community store – constructed of rusty, yellow sandstone – is the focal point of Skyline Farms Heritage Association's restoration efforts. The rock store is now home to the Skyline Farms Rock Store Museum. Their restoration and museum exhibits attracted the interest of the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation which helped write a Heritage Development Plan for the colony and the museum. These plans, coupled with the dedication and hard work of volunteers from the Skyline Farms Heritage Association, have enabled the Association to qualify for preservation grant monies.

In addition to preserving and creating a museum in the rock store, the timely efforts of the Heritage Association prevented the demolition of the "Old Rock School Building" on the campus of Skyline High School in the Fall of 1998.

Scottsboro Depot Museum

The Scottsboro Depot Museum houses a wide range of exhibits in the Scottsboro brick depot constructed by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company in 1860. It is thought that the same architect designed the Scottsboro Depot and Huntsville's pre-Civil War depot. The Scottsboro depot opened for business in January 1861 and serviced both passengers and freight until January 1892, when a separate passenger depot was opened in Scottsboro.





The depot is considered a city, county, and State of Alabama treasure. It is Scottsboro's and Jackson County's oldest, extant original business house and has been in continuous operation for 153 years. It is significant to the state since this building is one of only three pre-Civil War depots still standing in Alabama.

Before the Civil War ended, men fought in armed combat to control the Scottsboro depot and its access to the railroad. The crack caused by cannon balls still visible in the depot's east wall is a silent, enduring testimony to the skirmish fought in and around the depot on January 8, 1865.

The Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center

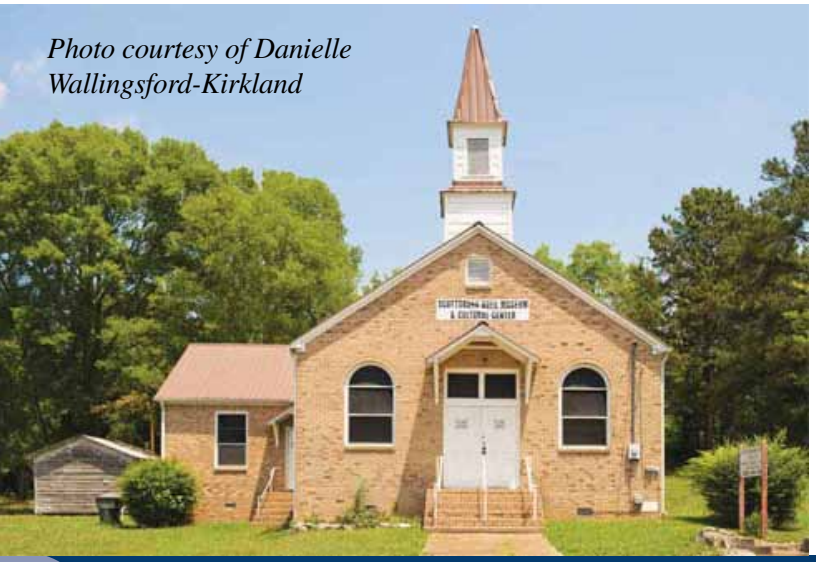


Photo courtesy of Danielle Wallingsford-Kirkland

The Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center located on West Willow Street is four blocks from downtown Scottsboro and the Jackson County Court House where the Scottsboro Boys first stood trial. The Scottsboro Boys Museum opened in February 2010 and contains a growing collection of memorabilia that includes original Jackson County arrest and trial documents, scrapbooks not previously available for public viewing, a jury chair occupied during the first Scottsboro court trials, 1930's newspapers articles, stamps sold to raise funds for the nine boys' defense, and photos from the trials. The exhibits also contain flyers, other documents, and photos used to draw worldwide attention to the Boys' plight. Visitors will have a chance to experience interpretive exhibits and video and audio clips relating to the Scottsboro Boys and their trials.



Shortly after, the rock school building was listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The Association continues to work with owners of local historic sites to preserve the community's unique heritage. This includes the Rock House that served as the administration building for the Colony, a warehouse and cotton gin, and a rope factory that have also been added to the Alabama Historical Register. On December 4, 2012, the Skyline Farm Resettlement Project was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The volunteer docents of Skyline Farms Rock Store Museum extend a warm welcome to all AHA members to visit and enjoy the variety of their museum exhibits on Friday afternoon, April 11, 2014.



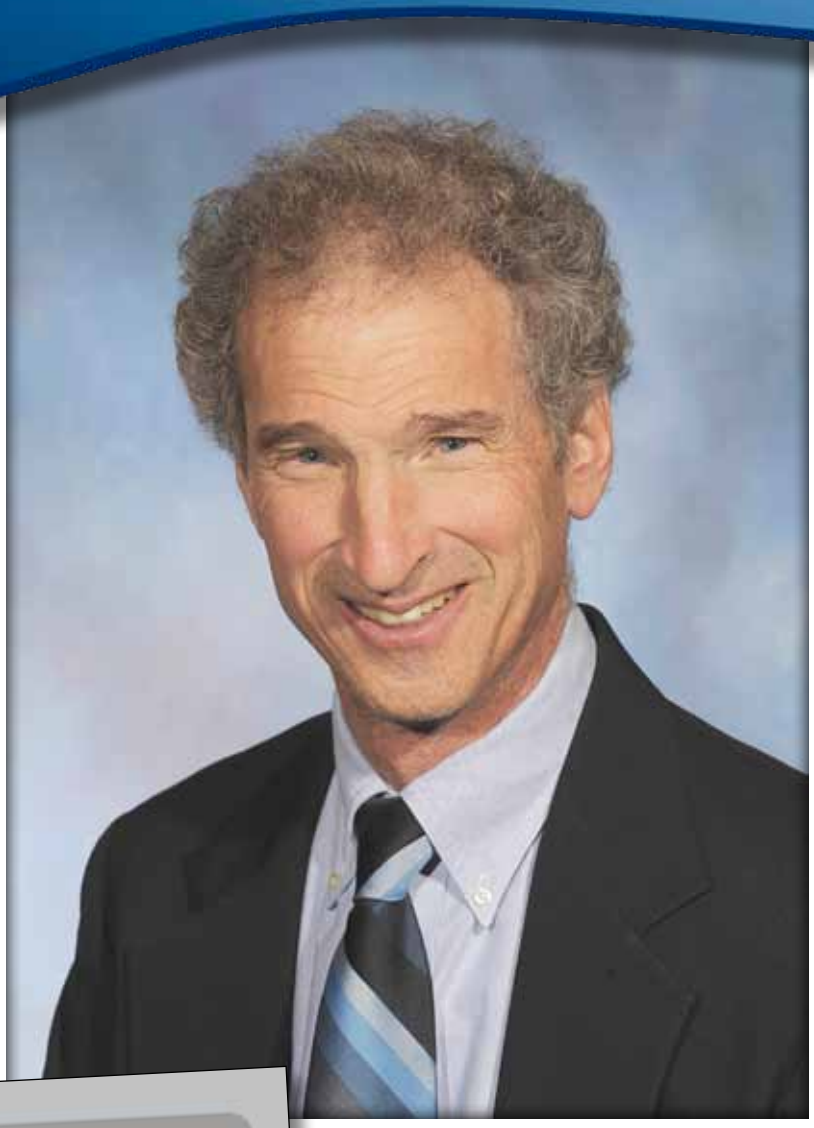
Hospitality Hour at Ivy Knoll to Precede the Annual Awards Banquet

Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Benham built Ivy Knoll in 1940. Mrs. Fletcher (Jacobs) Benham's father founded Scottsboro's Jacobs Banking Company, and the Benhams lived with her widowed father after their marriage in 1926. Following his death, they resolved to build their own home. They engaged Paul Meredith Speake who had just begun his architectural practice in Huntsville. The Benham house was the third of many of Mr. Speak's distinguished commissions, including the campus of Samford University.

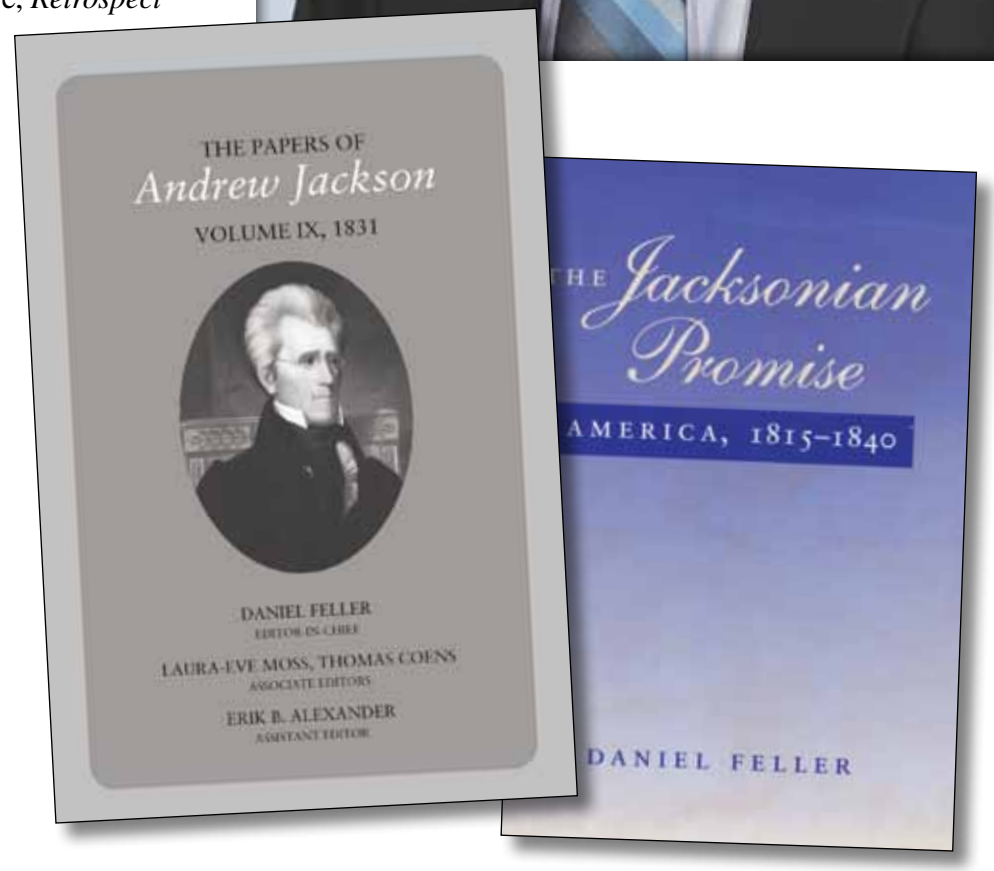
Upon both Benhams' deaths, Dr. Janice Jones Bragg and her first husband (the late Dr. Grady Jones) purchased the house in 1967 when they moved back to her hometown to begin their medical practice. Being a true Anglophile and remembering that houses in England have their own special name, Dr. Janice thought the house should have a name, and Ivy Knoll was a wise choice. After Dr. Janice's marriage to Tom Bragg, they added a downstairs master bedroom addition to the house. The Braggs will host a cocktail hour on Friday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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NOTED JACKSON SCHOLAR DANIEL FELLER TO PROVIDE BANQUET ADDRESS



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Daniel Feller will provide the keynote address, "Andrew Jackson and Alabama Politics," on Friday, April 11, at the annual awards banquet. Daniel Feller is Professor of History and editor/director of *The Papers of Andrew Jackson* at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and taught previously at Northland College and the University of New Mexico. His books include *The Jacksonian Promise: America 1815–1840, The Public Lands in Jacksonian Politics*, and a new edition of Harriet Martineau's 1838 American tour narrative, *Retrospect of Western Travel*. Three volumes of the Jackson Papers, covering the first three years of Jackson's presidency, have appeared under his stewardship. Feller was the lead scholar for the PBS biography, "*Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil, and the Presidency*," and has appeared on "*History Detectives*."



BREAKFAST SPEAKER TO DISCUSS THE USE OF ART AND ARTIFACTS IN THE TEACHING OF HISTORY



Dr. Richard Neely, a Scottsboro native with over 30 years of teaching experience at the high school and college level, will discuss the use of poetry, art and artifacts in the teaching of history on Saturday, April 12 as part of the annual meeting.

Neely, an award-winning history teacher with degrees from Samford University, the University of Alabama, and the Pennsylvania State University, currently teaches history at Indian Springs School in Birmingham, Alabama. He is the recipient of numerous awards for historic preservation, and he is an authority on historic military weaponry.



COVINGTON COUNTY

Andalusia Railroad Depot Side 1

On September 20, 1899, the first Central of Georgia locomotive with a work train arrived in Andalusia over these tracks, which extended to Cotton Street. Track laying was under the supervision of G.L. Burtcheall and C.B. Yancey, with J.N. White in charge of the track men. The Covington Times wrote "the engine stopped within 50 yards of the Courthouse and just sat there and 'blowed' for several minutes." The train was pushed by engine No. 1542 with H.H. Ward as engineer and W.E. Pye, fireman. Service was discontinued on March 31, 1983, with engineer A.M. Evans guiding the last train of empty cars out of the station. The Depot building was completed soon after the turn of the century and, since opening to the public in 1987, serves as headquarters for the Covington Historical Society and its Three Notch Museum. The building, the oldest wooden commercial structure in use within the city, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Andalusia Becomes the County Seat Side 2

The first county seat on the banks south of the falls of the Conecuh River was "Covington Courthouse," sited soon after the county was created in 1821. In 1826, when John Devereux was postmaster, the name was changed to Montezuma. Early citizens of the area included John Devereux, John Barrow, Dave Bullock, Captain Tatum, Henry Jones, John H. Stone, Samuel Bracken, Samuel Jones, Seaborn Jones, William Spurlin, Samuel Gates, Charles Stanley, and William Carter. After this small community was repeatedly flooded, a new site on top of Devereux Hill was chosen for the county seat in July 1844, and called Andalusia. The choice of name probably reflected the importance of the region's principal trading center, Pensacola, which was so long ruled by Spain.

[2013: Andalusia]



Berea Church of Christ – photo courtesy of Larry Whitehead

FAYETTE COUNTY

Berea Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ was established in 1829 when John Taylor preached the ancient gospel to a large gathering at the nearby home of David Thornton; the baptism of forty souls was the result. The church assembled in the homes of members until the early 1840s, when a meeting house was constructed near Stud Horse Creek, one mile west of this site. The building burned in 1858, and a new building was built here. That building was destroyed during the Civil War, and a third building was built in 1867. In 1959, the current structure became the fourth home for the church. Berea is one of the oldest Churches of Christ in Alabama. For several years, it was the only Church of Christ between Moulton and Montgomery. Rising from the ashes of the Civil War and the hard years of Reconstruction, its influence was felt throughout the northwest section of the state. Berea was the oldest and largest church in the area, and many congregations were started by members of Berea Church. The pulpit at Berea has been filled by many of the most prominent preachers in the Restoration Movement.

[2013: 335 Co. Rd. 50, Fayette]

JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Altamont Apartments

Built during the Roaring Twenties, the Altamont Apartments broke ground in 1924 and were completed in 1925. Designed by architect Jacob E. Sallie as an apartment/hotel, they were built to attract affluent businessmen who desired luxury, comfort, privacy, and a wholesome environment for their families, as well as accessibility to the city's commercial district. Planned as a community for its residents to experience the pleasures of luxury apartment living, many amenities were available on-site, including full plumbing and telephone service (rare features in 1920s apartments), a ballroom, and a full-service restaurant.

[2013: 2831 Highland Ave. South, Birmingham]

2013 Historical Markers

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Randolph County Training School (1919-1970) "The Maroon & Gold Bulldogs"

Randolph County Training School (RCTS) was chartered on September 15, 1919 as a public school for African Americans. It opened in the fall of 1920 with 73 students. The original two-story wood structure was built with contributions from black parents and community leaders and the local white community. The Rosenwald Fund provided seed money for the seven-teacher RCTS, as it did for nearly 5,000 other schools for African Americans in the South between 1912 and 1932. The original building burned in 1943 and was replaced, in 1948, by a masonry building that was still in use when the school was closed by a federal court's desegregation order in 1970. During its 51-year history, the dedicated staff of RCTS provided a solid education to thousands of students in spite of the "separate and unequal" circumstances. The school also was the nucleus of many social, civic, and educational activities in the black community.

[2013: Roanoke]

JACKSON COUNTY

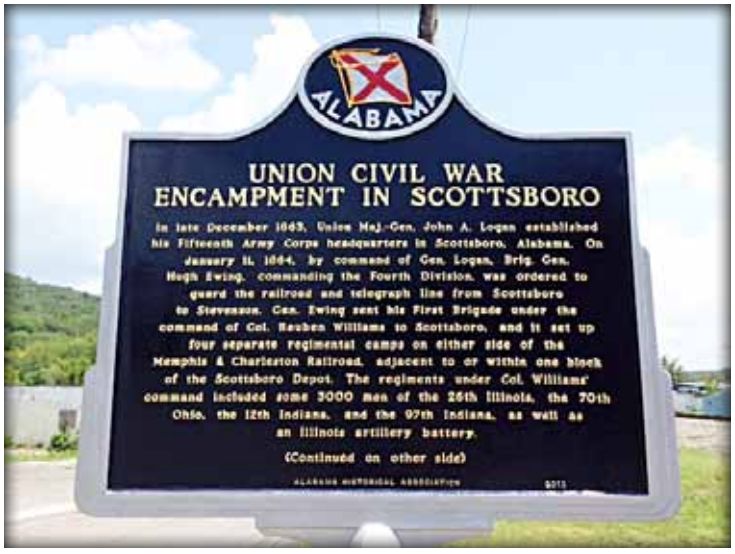
Union Civil War Encampment in Scottsboro Side 1

In late December 1863, Union Maj.-Gen. John A. Logan established his Fifteenth Army Corps headquarters in Scottsboro, Alabama. On January 11, 1864, by command of Gen. Logan, Brig. Gen. Hugh Ewing, commanding the Fourth Division, was ordered to guard the railroad and telegraph line from Scottsboro to Stevenson. Gen. Ewing sent his First Brigade under the command of Col. Reuben Williams to Scottsboro, and it set up four separate regimental camps on either side of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, adjacent to or within one block of the Scottsboro Depot. The regiments under Col. Williams' command included some 3000 men of the 26th Illinois, the 70th Ohio, the 12th Indiana, and the 97th Indiana, as well as an Illinois artillery battery.

Union Civil War Encampment in Scottsboro Side 2

After the war, Col. Williams returned to Indiana and established the Warsaw Daily Times. In his 1904 Civil War memoir he included an in-depth description of the facilities created within the Scottsboro encampment and his troops' military and social activities between December 26, 1863 and May 1, 1864. In the early spring of 1864, Col. Williams coordinated a successful dance in a building located on Main Street (now Maple Ave.) that served as Scottsboro's first school and church. He wrote that the site was "large enough for the waltz and gavotte." The dance was attended by his officers and their visiting wives, enlisted men, and local ladies who were transported by "military ambulances" to the Scottsboro encampment.

[2013: Maple Avenue, Scottsboro]



Union Civil War Encampment – Photo courtesy of Ann Chambless

2013 Historical Markers

WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Sullivan Cabin Side 1

The Sullivan Cabin was built on the east side of Bassett Creek, in 1874 by Gibeon Jefferson Sullivan, a Confederate soldier who served in Co. A, 32nd Ala Infantry, an all-volunteer company made up of men from Washington County. The cabin is a type of folk house common to south Alabama from the time of settlement until the end of the 19th century: a round-log, double-pen with dogtrot cabin.

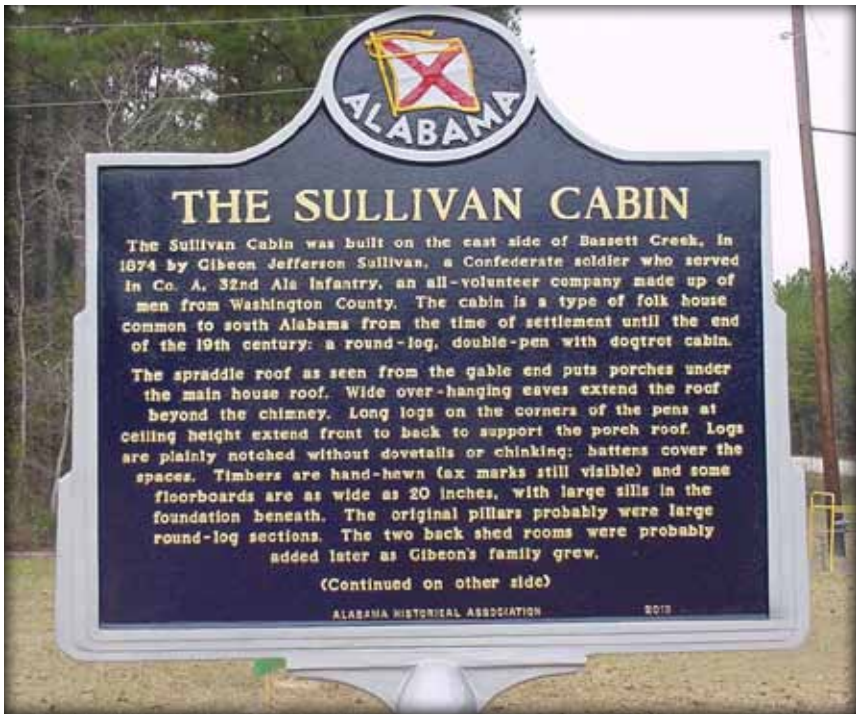
The spraddle roof as seen from the gable end puts porches under the main house roof. Wide over-hanging eaves extend the roof beyond the chimney. Long logs on the corners of the pens at ceiling height extend front to back to support the porch roof. Logs are plainly notched without dovetails or chinking; battens cover the spaces. Timbers are hand-hewn (ax marks still visible) and some floorboards are as wide as 20 inches, with large sills in the foundation beneath. The original pillars probably were large round-log sections. The two back shed rooms were probably added later as Gibeon's family grew.

The Sullivan Cabin Side 2

When the home was completed in 1874, Gibeon nailed three boards together to create a "cooling board." The feature turned his front porch into a place of central importance to the Wagarville community. When a death occurred, the board was used by neighbors to transport the body back to Gibeon's home where it was prepared for burial. As one of the few homes in Washington County with a cooling board, the Sullivan Cabin became a community gathering place where people came to grieve, pay respects, and find comfort.

The cabin remained Gibeon Sullivan's residence until he died in 1914, when it passed to his grandson, G.G. Sullivan, who lived here until his death in 1960. At G.G. Sullivan's death, the cabin became the property of D.K. Sullivan, who maintained it faithfully all of his life. His heirs sold the cabin to other Sullivan descendants, who gave it to the Pvt. Gibeon Jefferson Sullivan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in June 2009.

[2013: Alabama 56, Wagarville]



The Sullivan Cabin – Photo courtesy of Ellen Williams

Making History Public Workshop

Thursday, April 10, 2014 • 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m

Scottsboro Depot Museum
Corner of North Houston Street and Maple Avenue

Sponsored by the Alabama Historical Association and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University

Are you a leader or volunteer in a local historical society, museum, or nonprofit organization that preserves, interprets, or makes history available to the public?

Join with others for a day of networking, learning about resources and funding opportunities, and hearing about the work of the Encyclopedia of Alabama.

The cost of the workshop is $15, which covers lunch, and you may add the cost to your AHA registration fee using the form in this newsletter.

For more information, contact Maiben Beard at meb0015@auburn.edu or (334) 844-4903.



Pebble Hill in Auburn. Image courtesy of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, Auburn University.



Girls dressed in asparagus costumes. Image courtesy of Special Collections & Archives, Auburn University Libraries.

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SAVE THE DATE:

The AHA Fall Pilgrimage will be held October 10-11, 2014 in Montevallo and Columbiana!

Photo: Historic Courthouse, courtesy of the Shelby County Museum and Archives.